



▪ **How long have you lived in Spring Lake?**

I have lived in Spring Lake since 2008.

▪ **What experiences do you have with local governance?**

Since 1998, I have supported my west Michigan community by working as a police officer in law enforcement. My entire career incorporates enforcing local government laws and issues. As a union steward, I have participated in multiple union contract negotiations and have managed budgets with city managers. On a daily basis, I serve as a liaison balancing law enforcement and compassion while supporting our community.

▪ **Why are you running for the Board of Education? If elected, what will be your priorities?**

I have decided to run for Spring Lake School Board because my three children attend Spring Lake Schools. I have a vested interest in helping our school system connect with parents and students of all backgrounds. I have been active in the community by volunteering, coaching, and attending other school events and activities. It is a passion of mine to be an active participant in the growth of children. For the past seven years, I have had a consistent role in teaching life skills classes to fifth through seventh grade students in a neighboring community, mentoring over 1,000 students. I've greatly appreciated this role and would like to carry this experience into my own Spring Lake community.

Furthermore, as stated on the Spring Lake School District's website, the "Philosophy of the Board" reads, "The Board declares and, thereby, reaffirms its intent to: Maintain two-way communications with citizens of the district. The Board shall keep them informed of the progress and problems of the School District, and the citizens shall be urged to bring their aspirations and concerns about the district to the attention of this body."

This philosophy currently states the Board's commitment to two-way communication and keeping the public informed; however, there is need for improvement. Parents in the district have discussed concerns that this commitment is not being upheld. One of my goals includes building a bridge between parents, students, and the district, and I commit to upholding this philosophy as written.

▪ **What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?**

My career longevity in local government has prepared me for this role. As a community officer, I was in direct contact with teachers, students, and parents. Given my experience in teaching life skills in the public-school classroom, I have a unique combination of qualifications that have equipped me for this role. These skills include being able to connect with our youth and understanding their needs, building relationships with parents/families, and incorporating unique family experiences into teaching.

In addition, I have been a union steward at the Muskegon Police Department and have received Critical Incident Training (CIT). With this training, I understand how to assist people with manic behavior during a mental health crisis. Over the last two years we have seen suicide rates surge nationally. I have increasing concerns about our schools and the resources they have to identify and assist students in these crises. Given my experience, I hope to provide the district additional resources to improve student mental health, as well as school safety. Furthermore, my strong critical thinking skills, leadership ability, and effective communication skills will allow me to help the district improve in these areas.

▪ **In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?**

I have been mentoring the youth in the greater west Michigan area since 1992. I have been involved with Muskegon Public Schools (MPS), Muskegon Catholic Central (MCC), Grand Haven Public Schools (GHPS), and Spring Lake Public Schools (SLPS) in a variety of roles. I previously coached football at all levels for MCC, GHPS,

and SLPS. At MCC, I assisted in starting a youth football league for MCC youth students. In addition, I coached varsity softball at MPS and junior varsity softball at MCC, as well as flag football and varsity football at GHPS. At SLPS, I coached junior varsity baseball and for the past five years coached lacrosse.

As an active member in my community, I understand the importance of being involved with our youth. My commitment to this board position is to support our youth and provide transparency of board decisions along with listening to the community. As a school board member, my goals will always revolve around what is best for all students and their education.