



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

We have lived in West Michigan for 23 years, the first 10 years in Grand Haven and the last 13 in Spring Lake.

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

I have served on the Spring Lake Public School Board for the past six years. I have been the Board President for the past two years.

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

I am running for re-election for the same reasons I ran six years ago. I want to be involved in the decisions that are made for our school district and to do whatever I can to support the success of each one of our district's students.

Students

My top priority will continue to be our students. With three children in Spring Lake Public Schools, I am very invested in the success of our district. SLPS must continue to focus on academic success, student mental health, safety and the personal growth of each one of our students. I believe that our students should be part of the conversation about decisions being made on their behalf. The value of in-person learning has been made evident. The masking guidelines followed by the District during the pandemic, were put in place, to ensure the greatest number of in-person learning days and reduce the number of absences. During the school year, our attendance percentages were higher than districts that were not masking. The benefit of in-person learning is also reflected in our students' test scores. During these times, requests for student services continue to grow. The addition of two full-time academic interventionists at the secondary level, three full-time social workers and a full-time school safety coordinator are helping to address these issues.

Staff

The saying "it takes a village," could not be more true, especially in the school setting. Without our talented, dedicated staff, we could not provide the type of educational experiences our students deserve, and our community has grown to expect. The number of staff members a student encounters on a daily basis is incredible. Each of these individuals has an opportunity to make a difference in our students' educational experiences. Staff morale, retention and development must continue to be priorities for our district.

Community

The District must continue to be fiscally responsible with our taxpayers' money. SLPS has shown a surplus in eight of the past nine years. This has allowed the funding of educational priorities that make a difference in our students' educational experiences. Spring Lake Public Schools would not be what it is today without the support of our parents and community members. Continuing to work together with the common goal of student success is important. A strong school system is part of the foundation of a strong community.

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

I am a good listener, seeking clarity and understanding before I form an opinion, putting personal issues aside. I protect the confidentiality of our students, staff, parents and community members when necessary. I arrive prepared for our monthly Board Meetings and have served on multiple committees. I am a team player. I work with my fellow board members to make decisions that put learning first and give priority to what is best for all students.

I have six years of practical, hands-on experience, serving as a Board Member. The last two years serving as Board President, have shown me what it takes to work together as a community, through unprecedented times.

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

I have been volunteering in the schools for the past 13 years. I have popped popcorn, helped with classroom parties, coordinated staff appreciation meals, helped in the lunchroom, at book fairs and chaperoned class trips. I was the Holiday Workshop Chair for a number of years at Jeffers and was happy to keep the tradition going. I have helped on bond campaigns and district committees. I also served on the board of the SLIS Parents' Club for four years, during which time we raised money for playground enhancements and class trips. I am a Team Rep for the Athletic Boosters Club and enjoy helping in the concession stand at different sporting events.

I have met so many amazing people while volunteering over the years. The dedication of our parents and community members is a big part of why Spring Lake has been so successful. These types of positive experiences are what led me to run for the School Board six years ago.