



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

I've lived in Spring Lake Township for 7 years. Prior to that, I lived in Ferrysburg for 20 years.

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

My local governance experience is through service on the Spring Lake Public Schools Board of Education. I was elected in November 2016 and currently, I am serving as Vice-President.

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

I strongly believe in public education and that children deserve the best educational opportunities possible. While still working, I set a retirement goal of continued service to public education through membership on my local school board which led to running for the Spring Lake Board of Education in 2016. Having worked on the business side of education for 17 years, I know I have skills to help SLPS navigate the challenges public schools face. My priorities follow my belief that every single child deserves a quality, equitable, education. Therefore, I support a child's right to freedom of inquiry in our media centers, and not only opportunity for academic achievement, but social and emotional inquiry and development that occurs in a supportive academic environment. I also believe we need to expand active exploration of career paths in the trades. We need to provide information and support on educational requirements for those careers as well as we do for the college-bound students. And, of course, funding and responsible financial management is always at the forefront. To provide what our students need, we always need money!

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

In 2016, I was elected to Spring Lake's School Board and still serve on it. In these past years, we navigated budgets, union negotiations, policy updates, personnel and student situations, parent and community concerns, and Covid-19. I've served on the Finance Committee for a number of years, and am currently the Board representative to the District's Curriculum Committee and serve on the Board's Policy Committee. Additionally, working 17 years at the Ottawa Area ISD gave me experience that has proved very useful. I was a trainer and consultant to all local school districts regarding the legislative rules that govern student funding, and State required data collections. I also managed the bus driver training agency for Ottawa and Muskegon counties, managed property transfers between schools districts, and managed ISD funds in area community foundations.

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

When our children were in school, I was involved in their classrooms and parent groups. We moved about so they attended a few school districts: Grand Rapids Public, Caledonia Public, Perry Public, and then Grand Haven and Spring Lake. Our daughter did schools of choice and graduated from Spring Lake, our son graduated from Grand Haven. For a number of years, I served on the Board of Directors for Camp Bluebird which is a cancer retreat for individuals in the tri-cities area. I've also served on the Spring Lake School Board since election in 2016.