



- **How long have you lived in Hudsonville?**

I have lived in Hudsonville for 16 years. I lived in the West Michigan area when I was young and then traveled the US and overseas, first as a child of a servicemember and then as a military spouse. I eventually returned to civilian life and settled in Hudsonville. I have two HPS students - a sophomore and a 2018 graduate.

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

My experience with local governance stems from both my educational and professional backgrounds. I have a master's degree in Public and Non-Profit Administration from GVSU. My focus areas of interest were: the intersection community, economic development and environmental policy and best practices in creating transparency and building trust in government.

As the laboratory manager for the City of Wyoming drinking water and wastewater utilities since 2004, I have firsthand experience with local governance and governing boards and understand their relationship to the community they represent, administration, and staff.

- **What do you see as the primary work of the board?**

The primary purpose of any governing board is to provide foresight, oversight, and insight. A board's work is not seated in operational tasks. Its work is to engage in strategic and visionary thinking, set goals, and provide guidance. A board can best meet this purpose when a diversity of thought, background, and style are reflected in its membership.

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

I believe there are many ways I can have a positive impact through service to my community. Civic engagement is just one of those ways. As a parent of two young people, I am also excited to be an example to them of how to actively seek opportunities to be involved in their community.

I know that a board functions as a collective body. While singular voices are important in exploration and discussion, no one voice carries more weight than another. If elected, my intention is not to advance specific priorities, but rather to approach all board work from a set of core values and beliefs:

- Open and equitable access to education is a right.
- Transparency and accountability in any governing body are critically important.
- People (teachers, staff, students, families) are the heart of our schools. Continued investment in people and the technology, services, and infrastructure that support them is essential.
- A school district's policies should reflect the inherent dignity and worth of every person.
- It is important to look for and listen to marginalized voices.
- Fiscal responsibility is reflected in decision making that creates sustainable outcomes, while providing necessary resources for success.

- **What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?**  
I have had numerous opportunities to observe and participate in the activities of governing boards, both in my professional and personal life. Currently, I am serving as a member of the board of my faith community. I am also the 2020/21 Chair of the board of trustees for the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association which is a statewide professional organization for the drinking water sector. These experiences, joined with my analytical and scientific foundation, have cultivated my ability to grasp strategic concepts, be an active listener, synthesize data, and communicate in a respectful and relational manner.
- **In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?**  
I have been serving in the capacity of parent co-chair of the district's Sex Education Advisory Board since 2018. It has been an honor to serve alongside other parents, teachers, and administrators in the process of evaluating the sex education curriculum, recommending updates based on data and legal requirements, and measuring the outcomes of those changes.

I participate in activities with various community organizations such as Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds, Family Promise of Grand Rapids, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, and others. I am also involved in a local initiative focused on bringing awareness to and advocating for diversity, anti-racism, and inclusion.