

What is your vision for education in this community?

The schools should help every student achieve success. Clearly this involves academic success, the schools need to provide programs and learning tailored to each student's talents, needs and interests. But it also includes physical and emotional wellbeing. The schools need to provide sports, clubs and other programs to engage students and help them develop social skills needed for success in the future. It also includes keeping students safe. The schools need to not only keep students safe from violence and bullying but also maintain the resources and relationships with students to make the school a safe place for students needing assistance with issues like anxiety, depression and assault. I want every student to be proud they go to East Troy's schools, leading to pride and strong ties to the community as adults.

What makes an effective school board member?

If you are doing it right, winning a school board position is not a personal victory. It is not an opportunity for power, personal gain or to push your agenda. It is a commitment and a responsibility to be open minded, to listen to the insights and concerns of all community members, to become educated and stay informed to be able to make the best decisions for the students, the faculty and staff and the community. Doing it right takes a lot of time, effort, empathy and humility.

What motivated you to run for a school board seat, and what tools from your personal and professional world will lead to your success in this role?

I am proud that my children go to East Troy, I believe the leaders, faculty and staff provide a great education and great environment for building students' character. But I'm concerned our school district may be on the edge of a downward spiral. We have declining enrollment, we're reducing programs and we're struggling to be competitive in attracting and retaining great educators. And I am concerned there are many in the community not focused on addressing these issues, but are instead looking to use the school board to push divisive political agendas. I believe my talents and experience can have a strong positive impact in helping to overcome the challenges facing the district.

In my work life I have been a very successful leader over professional teams for the last 20 years. Throughout that time I have been a hands-on leader, staying engaged and sharing the workload. As an IT and information security consultant I help businesses solve complex problems every day. A lot of my success is due to my personality as a "servant leader", I empower people to make decisions, I listen to their needs and work to give them the tools and support they need to succeed, all the while establishing measurements, monitoring and holding people accountable for results.

In my personal life I've been blessed to be part of a dynamic and diverse family. I have four children, two in the middle school and two that have recently finished high school. My son Andrew, now 21, joined our family through a special needs adoption when he was six months old. I gain so much from all of my kids, however raising Andy especially has helped me grow a great deal in my capacity for empathy for others, flexibility, patience and active listening, recognition that success is different (but possible) for everyone and advocacy for what's right.

What do you believe the school district’s role is in the community, and how do you intend to maintain relationships with all members of the community?

The school district builds and demonstrates the character of our community. We build students’ character by setting a “tone at the top” with district leadership and maintaining policies, programs, staff and resources that get students engaged with the school and community and help them grow academically and emotionally. We show our character by how we support our students and teachers.

The most important way I intend to maintain relationships with all community members is to seek input, listen and sincerely take to heart the suggestions and concerns of all community members when making decisions while steering clear of divisive political discourse on topics outside of the control of the school board.

How does a school board positively impact the educational environment and culture of the district’s children and staff?

The school board has an impact in two key ways. The obvious one is in the decisions they make. For example, for 2022-2023 the board needs to balance the budget with an over \$1 million shortfall, two to three-times our usual budget gap. The board discussed alternatives to cover the shortfall and is proposing strategies (such as using temporary COVID funds, cutting faculty and staff and asking remaining employees to cover the gaps created) that work to maintain core components of the educational environment such as the existing class sizes and available course offerings. The other one is in the tone that they set. When board members demonstrate open-mindedness, collaborative problem solving and a true concern for the success and wellbeing of students and teachers in their speech and in their decisions, they help to establish a culture of pride and engagement in the school.