

GET TO KNOW YOUR BOARD CANDIDATES

RICK FRITZ

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What is your vision for the future of education in our district, and how will you support student success academically, socially, and emotionally? *

My vision for the future of education in Haslett Public Schools is an environment where students from all backgrounds and interests have opportunities for success. A place where every student, staff member, and community member feels heard and valued through transparent communication. I firmly believe this vision will produce cohesion and subsequently, well-rounded graduates entering the real world with their Alma Mater and hometown behind them every step of the way.

How will you ensure that all voices in the community, including parents, students, and teachers, are heard and considered in the decision-making process? *

In order to ensure all voices are heard, communication and transparency are key. It's important to note, trustees of a school board represent the people and therefore must make themselves available to them. I will ensure all voices are heard by making myself accessible through multiple mediums in order to hear concerns, answer questions, and address issues. Further, I will take those communications back to my fellow trustees to ensure a deliberate and thorough processing of topics that are brought to my attention.

What do you believe are the most pressing challenges facing our schools today, and how will you address them as a school board member? *

The landscape of education has changed drastically over the last two decades putting more on the backs of teachers. As a result, recruitment and retention of qualified staff is a major challenge facing schools today. Young college students are less likely to enter the teaching profession than ever before, and many top-notch educators are leaving the profession early. As the husband of a veteran educator, I am aware that educators, from the classroom teacher to the para-professional, are being asked to do more with less. The days of teaching only the subject for which you are certified or trained are gone. Education professionals are now charged with many tasks outside of teaching, from bathroom training, to administering medications, to trauma first aid/safety and security, just to name a few. All of this in addition to the requirements set forth by the State of Michigan. As a school board member, I vow to put a premium on retaining our outstanding staff and recruiting new and dynamic personnel who have the potential for greatness. Our students are the ultimate priority, but the best recipe for their success includes taking great care of our teachers and staff within Haslett Public Schools. We must empower them so they may continue or rediscover their passion for education to the benefit of all students in the district.

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What motivated you to run for the school board, and how do you think your experiences and skills will benefit our district? *

As a retired military leader and a father of three boys in the district, I am motivated to be a school board member because I can offer a different perspective. I want to use my experience as a leader of diverse populations to foster further growth for our district. I have a myriad of experiences sitting on committees, improving processes, and developing strategic plans across an array of military organizations which includes overseas deployments. I have worked with diverse groups which included personnel, not only from different walks of life, but also from many different types of organizations. Haslett Public Schools are excellent at many things, but there are always things which can be improved. I think my leadership experience in varied environments, ranging from administrative to austere, allow me to analyze data and take a balanced approach to problem solving which benefits all stakeholders.

Is there anything else you would like to share regarding being or becoming a school board member? *

I would be most honored to serve the Haslett Community and the school district as a common sense, open-minded, trustee of the Haslett Public Schools Board of Education.

*Thank
you!*