

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

Note: This information will be released to media personnel and the general public.

Name: Joel Hollerich	Home Phone: 952-220-5562
Address: 75 Balsam Lane	Work Phone:
City/State Zip: Madison Lake, MN 56063	
Place of Employment: Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership	
Children in the District: James - East, Noah + Julia Prairie winds Elyse - Eagle Lake	
Background: see attached	
Reasons for wanting to be on the Board: see attached	
Additional Comments: see attached	

Joel Hollerich District 77 School Board application answers

Background: I have spent approximately 20 years working in banking and churches. I am currently working with a non-profit which focuses on helping people rehabilitate their homes, getting low and moderate income people into homes, and rehabilitating and operating low income housing throughout Southern Minnesota. I grew up in Garden City, which meant spending a lot of time in Mankato, and attended Mankato State University for my undergraduate degree. My family lived in Chaska and Carver for several years, and had children enrolled in a chartered school and in the Chaska/Chanhassen district. I moved back to the Mankato area 4 ½ years ago and have four children in four different schools within district 77.

- 1. Explain why you would like to serve on the Mankato Area School Board.** I have always had an interest in public service and I think the school board is a good place to start because it's a place where a public servant can be closely connected to the people his/her service impacts. I have four children in the district, one each at East high school, Prairie Winds middle school, Rosa Parks elementary, and Eagle Lake elementary. I know students and parents and staff from each school and feel that I can have a good working relationship with any of these people whom I would represent. I have two boys in accelerated academic courses, one daughter who is primarily in a special needs classroom, and one daughter who so far is in mainstream courses, so I feel I understand the different academic offerings and needs of the full range of students in the district. My children are involved in music, and academic and sports teams, which I think also helps me understand the student needs for these activities as well as the life of a parent who has to work out schedules and transportation for practices and events. I would like to be a voice for the people of the district, and to help make sure that the best school experience can be available for the full range of students.
- 2. How can you contribute to a successful school board?** In my opinion, one of the biggest challenges and responsibilities of a school always seems to be the budget; what to cut, what to fund, bonding referendums, opening new schools, and possibly closing others. I have a degree in economics and training in investments and personal finance, and an understanding of how to budget for a non-profit and how to live within ones means. I have many times had to communicate to someone that they could not obtain a loan and then coach them on how to make changes that would put them in a position to be able to afford the thing they were hoping to purchase. I'm comfortable communicating things to people that they don't want to, but need to, hear. And I'm comfortable speaking in public and having what I say scrutinized and receiving feedback on my positions or ideas. I care about people from all walks of life, and know that a good education is critical not just to financial stability, but also having options and opportunities to work in a job or career which someone finds fulfilling. Having spent time as a pastor and a loan officer, I know how to listen to people, to ask questions in order to find out what the real problems are and motivations for people's actions, and to offer opinions and options to help address those issues.
- 3. Is there anything else you would like to share with the School Board?** I want people in the district to be proud of their schools and of their students. I want the district to be one that other districts look at and say "wow, I really like what they are doing in Mankato." I want to help keep kids in the district and make the schools so good that people don't even consider open enrolling their children into outlying districts, and for the district to offer all the challenges and support that each of its students need and deserve. I would like to help the district be the best it can possibly be.