

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

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

Name: Kari Pratt	Home Phone: 507-291-8008
Address: 1004 Applewood Ct	Work Phone:
City/State Zip: Mankato, MN 56001	
Place of Employment: Formerly a teacher at ISD77 (PWMS). Currently an independent contractor for Art of Problem Solving (math curriculum company)	
Children in the District: Leila - 8th grade at DMMS. Celia - 5th grade at Bridges	
<p>Background:</p> <p>I spent 13 years as a teacher at ISD77. I worked at East Junior High School as a math teacher, as a math instructional coach across all buildings in our district (for five years), and then at Prairie Winds Middle School as an 8th-grade math teacher. I resigned from my position at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, intending to run for the school board. My husband grew up in Mankato and owns a business in North Mankato. We have lived in the Mankato area for 17 years and chose to raise our family here because of all the wonderful things this community offers.</p>	
<p>Reasons for wanting to be on the Board:</p> <p>I believe in public education. That said, I strongly feel we need a teacher's voice on the School Board to represent our entire community. Education has taken many turns in recent years, especially through the pandemic, and teachers have stepped up to take on more roles than ever. A teacher's perspective is necessary to ensure that decisions will positively impact those who work closest with and have the most significant impact on our students. I believe there needs to be more transparency about what is going on at a district level with how decisions are made. Our community needs to have difficult conversations where we are open and honest about the challenges we face in our schools. I also feel that we need to create and maintain a safe environment for our students and staff in all buildings, where all students and staff feel safe, connected, and able to do their best. I believe students thrive in an environment with boundaries and high expectations, and school should be a safe place for all.</p>	
<p>Additional Comments:</p> <p>Having worked as the math instructional coach for ISD77 for five years, I had the opportunity to work in all of our K-12 buildings with teachers and students. We have an amazing group of educators and staff who want what is best for all of our students and our community. I have relationships with people in all those buildings, and I believe that by being on the school board, I can help provide a connection with teachers so that they feel supported and safe. I've been in the classroom, and I know the struggles and challenges that the pandemic, technology, and social media have brought to our classrooms. I want to be part of a solution to help keep our fantastic staff at ISD77 working with our students. We have been a leader in education in the past - a district where students want to learn, and teachers want to teach. I want our community to regain that passion for learning and keep Mankato a wonderful place to live and work.</p>	