

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE APPLICATION & BACKGROUND

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

Candidate First & Last Name: Erin Roberts	Home Phone: 507-420-4640
Resident Address: 320 Bunting Lane	Work Phone:
City/State/Zip: Mankato, MN 56001	Email: ekatheriner@gmail.com
Place of Employment: MN Department of Human Services	
Children in the District: 2 children, grades 8 & 10	
Background: Erin is a lifelong member of the Mankato community and has witnessed the growth and change within the area over the years, many of which have affected ISD 77. After graduating from Mankato East High School, Erin attended Minnesota State University, Mankato where she earned a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor's in Corrections with a minor in Political Science. Erin raises her three children in Mankato, all of whom attend or have attended schools in ISD 77. This upcoming school year she will have children in middle and high school, as well as a freshman in college. Erin knows first-hand the benefits and challenges that attending school within ISD 77 brings and is motivated to continue to improve the district through the by continuing the work of the new strategic plan. Erin has spent the last 3 1/2 years proudly serving as the district's School Board Clerk. She was instrumental in the creation of the Equity Committee that began in July 2024. Outside of being a School Board member, Erin is a Health Equity Director for MN Department of Human Services, Direct Care and Treatment supporting Forensic Services. In her role as a Health Equity Director she is responsible for leading statewide efforts to advance health equity within Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) and systemically address social determinants of health. in alignment with the DCT's mission, vision, strategic direction, and the goals of DHS Equity Policy. She advises senior leadership on resources, tools, implications, strategies, and best practices to inform decision-making through an equity lens, including: the strategic planning process, policy development, practice guidelines, and providing expert solution-oriented subject matter consultation for DCT employees as well as individuals served in DCT programs. In her job as well as her role as a School Board member, Erin leads large systems through planning, change, and policy development.	

1. Explain why you would like to serve on the Mankato Area School Board.

I want to be on the School Board for three reasons. The first reason is to foster a culture of inclusion for all children. I believe that every child who lives within the district needs to feel as if they have a place within the walls of every school they attend. We need to create an equitable education system so that all students can succeed. It is also important to have a School Board that is representative of the students it serves. Inclusion needs to start at the top.

The second reason is to hold us all accountable for the success of the students' education in our community including Board Members, building staff, community stakeholders, family and friends. I believe we are all responsible for the success of the education system. We need to hold our schools to a high standard in order to achieve this success. Accountability is not just in the classroom, it also includes access to schools, appropriate allocation of funding, transportation, ensuring teachers have the tools and support they need to successfully teach, the list is endless. We as the community need to be accountable to ensure this all happens. As a school board member, I would continue to facilitate that strive to make sure all of those groups work together for the success of our students.

The third reason is excellence in education. We have the opportunity to provide excellent education and we are responsible to do so. ISD 77 can be a leader in the State of Minnesota and across the nation in providing an education that will fit the needs of all students who enter. Excellence in education does not only mean we are seeing top test scores or straight A students. It means that every student has the access to graduation because we provide an equitable education for all to flourish. It also means that all students have access to a support system to aid in their success after graduation. Every child learns differently. We have the ability and obligation to meet those needs. It starts with us.

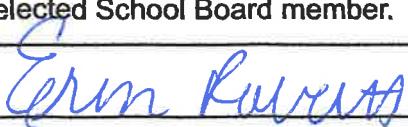
2. How can you contribute to a successful school board?

As a person of mixed race, I can bring a perspective that is different from some. I have the experience of knowing when voices are not heard and a group of individuals are disregarded in decision making and I have brought that lens to the school board for the last few years. Keeping a diversified School Board to accurately represent our students is essential if we want to ensure we are meeting the mission of the district, "Excellence, Equity, Empowerment. Every student, Every day." ALL means ALL! I believe that education is not one size fits all. Rather all sizes should fit in the education!

3. Is there anything else you would like to share with the School Board?

Erin is excited and eager to continue forward with future focused schools in the new strategic plan keeping equity and excellence as a focus for both staff and students. We must continue to meet each person where they are at and to find the skills and strengths for students to grow and staff to thrive. I appreciate the opportunity to serve my community for the past three and a half years and would be honored to continue to do so as a re-elected School Board member.

Signature:



Date:

8/9/24