



Election 2024 - November 5  
Local, State, and National General Election  
Check with your township about absentee ballots and/or mail-in ballots.

There will be three (3) SCHOOL BOARD seats open and on the ballot.  
See the information below for each of the six (6) candidates.



Lindsay Martin

1. What motivates you to want to become a board member?  
Empathy motivates me to become a board member. The world is experiencing so many challenges and so much hurt. I want to be part of a team that has the opportunity to hear, understand, and help navigate through challenges in our school district.

2. What is your vision for education in this community?  
My vision for this community would be inclusive education. I want to be a part of a community that provides quality education, is respectful of all students, and accepts all different abilities and backgrounds. I want every student and community member to feel a sense of belonging.

3. What are current challenges facing education or the Pillager School District?  
I think the most obvious challenge will always be funding. I think another rising challenge is technology. Technology is advancing so rapidly. How can we appropriately harness that as a school district without allowing it to take over?

4. What qualities and behaviors do you think are expected of you as a school board member?  
-Integrity -Open mindedness -Collaboration -Empathy -Passion -Community Involvement -Ongoing willingness to learn



Jesse Marohn

1. What motivates you to want to become a board member?  
My motivation to become a board member is driven by a desire for personal growth and a commitment to our community. I have found that I am most engaged when I am directly involved, and I believe that serving on the school board will not only help me grow as an individual but will also enable me to contribute meaningfully to the community. My personal goals are deeply aligned with helping others, and I see this role as an opportunity to support and advocate for the needs of our students and families.

2. What is your vision for education in this community?  
Having grown up in the Brainerd Lakes Area, I have seen the Pillager school district transform from a place with challenges to a community where families want to send their children. My family and I moved to Pillager specifically so our children could benefit from this positive environment. My vision for education in our community is to build on this momentum, ensuring that our school continues to grow while leveraging our smaller scale environment to implement effective educational practices that meet the needs of every student.

3. What are the current challenges facing education or the Pillager School District?  
One of the significant challenges I see facing education today, is the influence of politics. Schools should be environments where students develop critical thinking skills and are prepared for the future. It's essential that education remains focused on the well-being and intellectual growth of our students, rather than becoming a battleground for political agendas.

4. What qualities and behaviors do you think are expected of you as a school board member?  
An effective and efficient school board is built through a team effort. I have excelled in sports, other team activities, and working environments my entire life. I would imagine my can do attitude, willingness to work with others to accomplish fair and balanced goals and my passion for continuous improvement would be a great benefit to the school board.



Brian Grimsley

1. What motivates you to want to become a board member?  
Passion for Education - I Like to be deeply invested in improving educational outcomes for students. Seeing the positive impact of educators work on students' lives is a powerful motivator.  
Desire for Community Improvement - I sincerely care about the community and believe that quality education is key to its development, serving on the school board allows me to contribute directly to this goal.

2. What is your vision for education in this community?  
Commitment to Excellence - Ensure high academic standards and a culture of continuous improvement.  
Teacher Support and Development- Invest in professional development and support for educators to enhance teaching quality.  
Community Partnerships - Build strong partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and higher education institutions to enrich educational opportunities.

3. What are the current challenges facing education or the Pillager School District?  
Budget constraints- Every school district constricted: Make sure we have a balanced budget.  
Staffing Issues – providing ongoing training and support to help teachers stay current with educational best practices.  
Curriculum - Updating curriculum to ensure it is relevant to today's job market and rigorous enough to challenge students.

4. What qualities and behaviors do you think are expected of you as a school board member?  
My vision for the Pillager School District is to create a vibrant, educational community where every student is empowered to achieve their full potential. I am dedicated to fostering a culture of excellence through innovative teaching, supportive environments, and active community involvement. Together, we will prepare our students to thrive in an ever-changing world and become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.



Kassandra Nelson

1. What motivates you to want to become a school board member?

I am motivated to become a School Board member again because I am deeply committed to ensuring that every child in our community has access to a high-quality education that meets their unique needs. I want to be an advocate for equitable resources and opportunities, especially for students who are historically under served or face additional barriers. I believe my perspective and dedication can help bridge the gap between the community and the schools, fostering stronger collaboration and mutual support. I am passionate about creating a positive, inclusive environment where every student feels empowered to succeed. Ultimately, I want to help shape policies that will support educators, strengthen our schools, and uplift our entire community.

2. What is your vision for education in this community?

My vision for education in this community is to create an inclusive and equitable learning environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential. I aim to strengthen partnerships between schools, families, and the community to foster a collaborative approach to education that addresses diverse needs and aspirations. By investing in innovative teaching practices, mental health resources, and professional development for educators, I envision a system that nurtures both academic excellence and personal growth. Ultimately, I hope to build a resilient, adaptable educational framework that prepares students for a rapidly changing world while honoring our community's unique strengths and values.

3. What are the current challenges facing education or the Pillager School District?

Current challenges facing education include addressing learning loss and achievement gaps exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have disproportionately impacted marginalized communities. Schools are also grappling with a shortage of qualified teachers and staff, leading to larger class sizes and reduced support for students. The increasing need for mental health resources is another critical issue, as students and staff alike face heightened stress and anxiety. Additionally, schools must adapt to the rapidly evolving demands of technology integration while ensuring equitable access to digital tools and resources for all students.

4. What qualities and behaviors do you think are expected of you as a school board member?

As a School Board member, I believe I am expected to prioritize the welfare and success of all students by making informed, equitable decisions. I should demonstrate accountability, transparency, and ethical behavior in all my actions while fostering trust within the community. It is important for me to engage in active listening, valuing diverse perspectives, and promoting inclusive dialogue. Additionally, I must be committed to continuous learning and stay informed about educational trends and district needs to effectively guide policy and strategy.



Bridgette Brown

My name is Bridgette Brown. I am a mom of four, wife to an amazing man, and owner of my small business, Double B Wild Rags. I graduated from Pillager High School in 2004. My family and I have been long standing residents of the Pillager school district. My kids are fourth generation Huskies!

What motivates me to be a school board member is our students and community. I love the fact that we are a big school with that small town heart. I hope to continue to be a member of our board to help guide our school in the direction that this community has long since been known for. We are conservative people that see the importance of a well rounded education. Within our school, our goal should be first and foremost, to raise our children up to be assets to whichever community they land in. We need to continue to show them that hard work and perseverance in any field is what makes for a great career and life. That is why I encourage our school to focus on not just a college path but also a trades path for graduating students. I would like there to continue to be a large emphasis on the core subjects of school, Math, Reading, and Science. To achieve the

well rounded aspect, we need to come up with ways on how to incorporate fine arts, trades, history, and social studies into the core subjects.

Schools are a place of learning not a place of political influence. I understand our community is conservative. As a board member it is highly important to educate yourself on laws being made in St. Paul that could deeply affect our way of life in the Brainerd Lakes Area. If elected, I will stand firm on my conservative values. Not only to protect our children but also our communities reputation. We were voted #1 for a reason. Let's keep up the good work!

Thank you for taking the time to read and for your consideration.



Levi Nagel

1. What motivates you to want to become a board member?

I'm a big believer in the idea of "be the change you'd like to see in the world". As times seem to get crazier every day I would like to play an active role in helping to improve our future.

2. What is your vision for education in this community?

I would like to see Pillager continue on the path of becoming one of the most respected area schools. I really like the opportunities that smaller schools are able to provide for the students by being able to have opportunities to succeed that may not be afforded in larger settings.

3. What are the current challenges facing education or the Pillager School District?

In my opinion, 2 major issues facing education today are the rapidly changing technologies that schools are expected to adopt and keep up with, and the growing opinion from the public about what is taught, who teaches it and how they teach it.

As artificial intelligence becomes more prominent and publicly accessible schools will deal with more challenges ensuring students are doing their own work. Smart phones have become a regular item for students to have on their person, creating issues with access to the internet, and just the basic issue of regulating whether or not students are allowed to be on them.

As political pressures from both sides heat up for the election year, opinions on various social issues will be brought to the forefront of people's minds again, and schools will be smack dab in the middle of it due to everyone having strong feelings about what children should be taught. The board will be put into tough decisions and forced to make decisions to navigate the tumultuous road ahead. Social norms are changing and kids are expressing themselves in ways never seen before.

4. What qualities and behaviors do you think are expected of you as a school board member?

I think as a board member I would be expected to be a steward of the school and a representative. Someone that can be approached with any concerns. I think it's important to be an active member of the community and school functions and keep up to date with the organization.