



School Board Member

Mary Theisen

Tell Us About Yourself:

I grew up in Whitefish Bay and attended Edgewood College in Madison before returning to the Milwaukee area, where I met my now-husband, Aaron. I went back to school at UW–Milwaukee to pursue my nursing degree, followed by a nurse practitioner certification, and eventually earned my PhD in nursing. I now work as an educator in UWM's undergraduate and graduate nursing programs, where I have the privilege of training the next generation of nurses and healthcare leaders. We moved to Shorewood in 2016 and quickly fell in love with its walkability, creativity, and strong sense of community. We now have four children, ages 3 to 11, and we feel incredibly grateful to be raising them in Shorewood.

What inspired you to get involved with the school board?

My inspiration for joining the school board is our children. We've had a wonderful experience at Atwater Elementary, and I'm excited for the years ahead as our family continues to grow within the Shorewood schools. I'm running to help sustain and strengthen the excellence of our district—for my kids and all kids. As an educator, parent, and community member, I want to support thoughtful, inclusive decision-making that reflects Shorewood's values.

What about the Shorewood School District inspires you most?

I'm constantly inspired by the incredible educators in our district. Their dedication, creativity, and care have brought so much joy and growth to my children's lives. Shorewood schools offer students rich opportunities to explore their interests, ask big questions, and engage with the world. It's a district that values both academic rigor and human connection—a powerful combination for preparing young people to thrive.

What do you enjoy about living in Shorewood?

There's so much to love about life in Shorewood! I love that we can walk nearly everywhere—from the library to the lake to dinner on Oakland. I love Atwater Beach, Cloud Red, and all the other great spots for gathering with neighbors. I love parties on Oakland, the Fourth of July celebration, and the way this community shows up for each other. Most of all, I love being part of a place where education is deeply valued and where people are committed to making things better.

Your secret talent that no one knows about:

If you ask my kids, I have no talents whatsoever. But if you ask me, I'm an avid reader. My secret talent is that I can talk about books for hours—which my kids obviously love. I also have a special knack for picking the best books from the Lucky Day shelf at the Shorewood Library.

