



MATTHEW PELTIER

*SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER CANDIDATE-
INCUMBENT*

Describe your background:

I grew up in Alaska then served four years in the United States Marine Corps, earning an honorable discharge at the rank of Sergeant (E-5). After completing my bachelor's degree, I spent 12 years in law enforcement in Alaska and Colorado. During that time, I received multiple life-saving awards and commendations for peacefully resolving high-stress situations.

In 2013, my daughter was born, further strengthening my commitment to community and public service. In 2018, my family and I moved to Wisconsin to be closer to family, and I transitioned into a career in finance, where I gained valuable experience in budgeting, accountability, and fiscal decision-making.

Describe your involvement in the School District of Jefferson and the community:

My involvement in the School District of Jefferson began in 2018 when my daughter started at Sullivan Elementary, and I became active with PATHS. In 2020, I was encouraged to run for a vacant School Board seat and was elected to serve the community. Since then, I have been a consistent and engaged Board member, attending regular Board meetings and participating in four state education conferences, twice serving as the delegate for the School District of Jefferson.

For the past two years, I have served as President of the School Board, working collaboratively to support students, staff, and the community. In addition to my Board service, I remain involved at the school level by chaperoning field trips and supporting my daughter as a proud parent at her sporting events.

Why are you running for School Board?

I am running for the School Board because I believe Jefferson students deserve an excellent education that prepares them for both college and today's workforce. Our schools should reflect the needs of our community by supporting strong academic programs, career and technical education, and opportunities that help students succeed after graduation. At the same time, I believe the School Board has a responsibility to be careful and transparent with taxpayer dollars. By balancing student achievement with fiscal responsibility, we can protect the quality of our schools while earning and maintaining the trust of our community.

Identify current District strengths and challenges:

Strengths:

The District has a strong track record of success supported by dedicated, high-quality staff. Our Agriculture and Technology departments play a key role in preparing students to be career-ready and connected to opportunities within our community.

Challenges:

Declining enrollment and decreasing state support for education remain significant challenges. If the state continues to underfund education, as it has since 2009, the District will increasingly need to rely on local funding sources. Jefferson has excellent schools and consistently delivers strong outcomes for students, but we must continue to advocate more effectively for the District as we seek local support to make up for funding shortfalls at the state level.