



SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

November 3, 2026 Election

Note: This information will be released to media personnel, district website, and general public.

Candidate First & Last Name: Kari Pratt	
Phone Number: 507-291-8008	Email Address: Karipratt77@gmail.com
Place of Employment: South Central Service Cooperative	
Children in the School District: 2 - Leila + Celia Pratt	
Background: See attached	
1. Explain why you would like to serve on the Mankato Area School Board. See attached	
2. How can you contribute to a successful school board? See attached	
3. Is there anything else you would like to share? See attached.	
Signature: Kari Pratt	Date: 7/14/2026

School Board Candidate Background - November 3, 2026 Election
Kari Pratt

Background:

I have had the opportunity to serve my community through a variety of professional and volunteer roles. Before entering education, I worked in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors. I then spent 14 years teaching math in Mankato Area Public Schools before stepping away to serve on the Mankato School Board, which I have had the privilege to do for the past four years. Today I serve as the Regional Math Lead at South Central Service Cooperative, partnering with school districts across our region to support high-quality math instruction and student achievement. My work allows me to collaborate with leaders while staying connected to the evolving needs of public education.

My husband and I are proud to be raising our two children in Mankato Area Public Schools. As both a parent and educator, I am deeply invested in ensuring our district continues to provide exceptional opportunities for every student.

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

It has been my privilege to serve on the MAPS school board for the past four years, including the last two as the Vice Chair. I continue to believe that it is important to have an educator's perspective at the table as decisions are made that shape the education and future of our students. Serving on the board has reinforced my belief that strong public schools are built through thoughtful governance, fiscal responsibility, and meaningful engagement with students, families, staff, and the community.

I would be honored to continue serving our community by helping ensure every student has access to a high-quality education and the opportunities they need to thrive. I remain committed to our district's mission of "Excellence, Equity, Empowerment. Every student, every day." and working collaboratively to ensure those words are reflected in the experiences of every student and family we serve.

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

I bring a combination of educational expertise, leadership experience, and a collaborative approach to our board work. As an educator, I understand the classroom teaching experience, the challenges our schools face, and the opportunities to strengthen our programs and enhance the student experience. I value listening to different perspectives, asking thoughtful questions, and working collaboratively to make informed, forward-thinking decisions. I am organized, solutions-oriented, and committed to helping the board govern effectively while keeping the needs of students at the center of every decision.

3. Is there anything else you would like to share?

One of the most rewarding parts of serving on the School Board has been helping advance policies and initiatives that keep students at the center of our work. Early in my first term, I prioritized the adoption of a district cell phone policy to support student learning and well-being. As a board, we revised our district's mission statement, core values, and strategic roadmap to better align to our community's vision for our students and schools. I also helped establish opportunities for students to have a voice at the board table, ensuring that those most impacted by our decisions are part of the conversation. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and I remain committed to ensuring that Mankato Area Public Schools continues to provide exceptional opportunities for all students.