



MEET THE CANDIDATES

DONNA MOONEY

2022 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILE

JENISON RESIDENT FOR 7 YEARS

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

I'm running for the Board of Education to improve the quality of education by focusing on curriculum that prioritizes the fundamentals of reading, writing, history, math, STEM and the arts. More than anything our children need to be set up to succeed in life and Michigan's overall literacy scores show that we can do a much better job. I'm an advocate of parental rights and I want to ensure the right and trust between the parents and their children are not breached by a system that is entrusted with their care for the purposes of preparing them for future success.

IF ELECTED, WHAT WILL BE YOUR PRIORITIES?

My priorities will be to include more parental insight, freedom and transparency into curriculum, materials and certain policies prior to adopting. I want to ensure that policies that are adopted are consistent with the constitutional rights of ALL students and that ALL students feel safe in an environment that prioritizes excellence in education above all other agendas. Children need to be allowed to be children without the pressures of adult issues being placed upon them. I'd like to be a part of interviewing and continuing to choose quality educators who have a passion for teaching all of the fundamental subjects that America was built on that made it into the place for opportunity. As a student of history in many respects, I'd love to see more factual American history taught in our schools that is free of bias.

HOW ARE YOU CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN THE JENISON SCHOOL COMMUNITY?

My children have been involved in robotics, band, marching band, track and cheer. Through the years both my husband and I have volunteered our time and money in support of JPS's extracurricular activities. I've been attending our Jenison School Board meetings for about the last 2 years advocating on behalf of our parents and our children involving issues outside of the scope and qualifications of the public education system.

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE PRIMARY WORK/FUNCTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION?

The primary function of the board of education is to oversee the budget for the school district, the hiring of teachers, the approval of curriculum and engagement with the parents, children and community of the district.

WHAT ATTRIBUTES & BEHAVIORS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS?

Courage, civility, integrity, compassion, selflessness and respect for the parents, students, educators, school board and community at large.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR EDUCATION IN OUR COMMUNITY?

My vision for education in our community is one where our youth are challenged to reach their full potential in educational excellence in the fundamental areas of reading, writing, history, math, Stem and the arts. I envision a community where we are all treated as individuals with love and respect for each other and not divided into categories. Whatever our differences may be, we are more alike than we are different. Dividing people into labels or categories only serves to divide and serves no positive purpose in the realm of educational excellence where we all have the opportunity to succeed if we set goals and work hard enough.

The statements and opinions expressed in this profile are solely those of the candidate's and do not represent those of Jenison Public Schools. The primary purpose of this profile is to educate and inform and does not constitute any endorsement or support of a particular candidate or initiative. Each candidate was given identical questions and the same opportunity to provide responses and a photo.

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WHAT PARTICULAR EXPERIENCES OR SKILLS HAVE PREPARED YOU TO SERVE AS A BOARD MEMBER?

I've worked in both corporate America as well as smaller businesses in the private sector. I've been successfully self employed for 14 years even moving my self employment from Ohio to Michigan and building a network of relationships locally. I worked in IT as a networking analyst and in project management and later joined a law firm working as a trained paralegal dealing with bankruptcy and divorce clients before ultimately setting off on my own which enabled me to enjoy the freedom of working around my family.

WHAT DIFFERENTIATES YOU FROM OTHER CANDIDATES AND/OR BOARD MEMBERS?

I can't speak for the other board members but I'm sure that for the most part, we're more alike than we are different and we're all striving for the best for our children. We might perhaps have different ideas on how to get to the same places but the sharing and debating of ideas is what drives innovation and change.

WHAT FOCUS AREA OF OUR STRATEGIC VISION EXCITES YOU MOST?

Strengthening student learning and engaging with the community.

WHAT IS YOUR PERCEPTION OF THE CURRENT WORKING AND LEARNING CLIMATE IN OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT?

My perception of the current working and learning climate in our school district is that it's good but could be much better. I feel that we've strayed from what the intent and purpose of education should be in favor of agendas and activism that the public school system should not be engaged in specifically when it creates a distrust or wedge between the family unit. Social media has changed the dynamics of bullying in a way that past generations were fortunate enough to not have to deal with. We need to do a better job of teaching our children about the dangers and real-life implications of irresponsible social media usage.

I FEEL MOST PASSIONATELY ABOUT:

I feel most passionately about my children, your children and the direction and future of our country for these children who deserve to live free in pursuit of life, liberty and happiness!