

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Listed Alphabetically

TRAVIS BENSINK

If you would, please share your view on the role of an elected school board member and why you are running. If elected, what will be your top five priorities?

My desire to run for school board is based on my genuine interest in the education of today's children, including my own four children, while also understanding the financial responsibilities that the school board has to its district. If I am to be Re-elected as a school board member, I hope to further develop these areas inside our district to make us a destination district.

Some of my top priorities include:

- 1) Focusing on budgeting and personnel relations.
- 2) Providing learning opportunities beyond the liberal arts including technical fields and the creative arts
- 3) Continue to offer opportunities to our students inside our district to better prepare them for their next steps after school. Whether it be college or the workforce.
- 4) Work to keep our financial promises to our district residents by reviewing budgets and keeping our tax base as low as possible.
- 5) Explore opportunities for shared services with other districts that provide our students with the most optimum learning opportunities and to expand on our district as a destination location.

Chautauqua Lake strives to be a “destination district” for families and students who are looking for a place to reside. What do you know about Chautauqua Lake that makes it a great school district?

Chautauqua Lake is one of the premier districts to send children to school for multiple reasons. First and foremost our next level curriculum provides our students with the opportunity to learn, grow and advance themselves before every entering the workforce. We also offer various extracurricular activities that afford our students to branch in our athletics, arts, music, and science to just name a few. We are constantly listening to both the student body and district residents for new and forward thinking opportunities that we can incorporate into our school.



How could your professional experiences and background support our students and district goals?

As a current Chautauqua Lake School Board Member, I'm excited to share many 6 years of experience in helping to manage budgets, hiring decisions, approval of adding curriculum, and helping to see our school through two major occurrences which were covid and a building project. While Operating as a senior level manager I have also be part of the budgeting process, labor, and production, including schedules and timelines. I'm also able to make personnel decisions and utilize my negotiating skills. I have an interest in communicating ideas, coming to a consensus as a group, and reaching a common goal.

What do you believe are the most important areas to consider when developing the school budget? What are your thoughts and feelings on shared services?

As a candidate for school board, it is my conviction to use every taxpayer dollar efficiently to provide the highest quality educational experience for our students. Our student's education is our #1 priority. Local taxpayers provide the resources to meet this goal. We are accountable to taxpayers to use these resources efficiently. I feel shared services help us to offer our students more opportunities both internally and externally while helping to keep the taxpayers dollar contribution lower because the cost is shared between school districts.



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What particular life experiences or skills qualify you to serve as a school board member?

In what school/district activities have you been involved?

In what community activities (e.g., Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, volunteer emergency responder, youth athletic organizations, committee work, church, etc.) have you been involved?

Are/were you the parent of child(ren) in the Chautauqua Lake Central School District?

If so, please give names(s), grade(s), and approximate dates attended:

Travis Bensink has participated in community activities throughout Chautauqua County, including cooking demonstrations for the Chautauqua Institution Children's School, coaching soccer for Southwestern Area Youth Soccer program, Coaching youth football, coaching youth baseball, member of Mayville's Ice Castle Committee, and supporting local 4-H students through livestock sales.

He has been involved with church activities that including nursery volunteer, Annual Sportsmen's Dinner volunteer, women's luncheon volunteer, adult Sunday school teacher, Missions team member, and chairman for Outreach local missions ministries. He has also been a Member of the school board for the last 6 years and is currently serving as the Vice President.

Travis has 4 Children who currently attend Chautauqua Lake: Thandon age 14 in 8th grade, Tatum age 12 in 6th Grade, Tripp age 9 in 2nd Grade, and Talia age 7 in 2nd grade.

