



# HAMILTON Community Schools

*Great Things Happen Here.*



## Candi Dykstra

Meet the Candidates - 2024



### **Why are you running for Hamilton Community School's board of education?**

I am running to ensure our children receive an education grounded in the essential basics for their future success. I aim to keep CRT and political agendas out of the classroom, advocate for increased parental involvement, and support a curriculum that mirrors our community's values. Additionally, I believe in holding all staff, students, and administration accountable and maintaining fiscal responsibility.

### **What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?**

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Ministry Leadership and spent five years as the Director of Children's Ministry at a local church. In this role, I initiated a special needs ministry, became trauma-informed to better support my students, researched and implemented curriculum to achieve yearly goals, and developed a volunteer team to lead and teach the children in their care.

Currently, I work with Family Bound, an organization that collaborates with local DHHS and faith-based agencies to recruit, retain, and support foster families in our counties.

As a mother of nine children and having cared for over 15 additional children in the past 18 years, I bring extensive experience working with children of diverse ages and backgrounds. My personal experience with children who excel in school and those who face significant challenges has given me a broad perspective on the varying needs of students in our community. I believe it is crucial to help students identify their unique learning styles to ensure their success.



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## **In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?**

My husband and I have lived in Hamilton for over 20 years, raising our family and actively participating in the community. I have had the privilege of serving with the PTO as both Vice President and President. Additionally, I have volunteered in Bible clubs and enjoyed assisting with home track meets and football games whenever possible. While my children were young, I drove a school bus for five years, both as a substitute and a full-time driver.

Two years ago, I volunteered to fill an interim seat on the school board, where I gained valuable insights into the roles and responsibilities of board members. I am confident that my past experiences have well-prepared me to be a valuable addition to the school board for a full term.

## **What do you wish to accomplish?**

As a board member, my primary goal is to ensure that the school board truly represents our community. I want every individual in our community to feel heard and to know they have a voice advocating on their behalf.

## **Is there any other information and/or website that you would like to share for people to know about you or your campaign?**

If you want to learn more about me and my family's values, I encourage you to follow me on Facebook @Candi Nightingale Dykstra. There, you'll see my passion and love for God, my family, our community, and our country.

A common question I receive is, "How will I find time to serve on the school board with so many children?" My current part-time job allows me to work from home, providing the flexibility I need. Additionally, when something is important, you make time for it.

Thank you for taking the time to read these questionnaires and making an informed decision about your next school board members. - Candi Dykstra