

MEET the SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Candidates are listed in the order they will appear on the **April 1, 2025** ballot. There are three Hudson Board of Education seats up for election.

Maria Rudie |



Describe your background:

I'm excited to introduce myself and share why I'm running for the Hudson School Board.

My family has lived in Hudson for nearly 20 years. Like many of you, we chose Hudson because of the strong reputation

of its schools. Our children are in middle school and high school, and attended River Crest and Hudson Prairie for elementary. We've always felt welcome in each school and have loved being a part of this vibrant community! Professionally, I have a background in public health and currently work at an academic medical hospital focusing on programs and policies to help both adults and youth quit tobacco and vaping. My work spans state and local communities across the U.S. Throughout my career, I've appreciated the importance of both data and personal stories in understanding issues communities face then working in partnership to develop effective solutions. I have a strong understanding of how state and federal policies influence funding and how effective policymaking (the role of the School Board) and implementation (the role of administration) must align for success. Much of my work involves leading focus groups and community discussions to better understand challenges and to work collaboratively with stakeholders on actionable solutions.

Describe your involvement in the Hudson School District or Hudson community:

Over the past 10 years, I've had the privilege of volunteering in various ways to support our schools—whether it was chaperoning field trips, helping with sports or band activities, or contributing to committees like the Elementary Re-boundary Committee (2018), the Human Growth and Development Committee (2023), and the 2024/2025 Teaching and Learning Committee. I also volunteered for the Hudson Backpack Program (now Operation Help). Currently, I chair the Vibrant Communities Fund at the St. Croix Valley Foundation which funds local nonprofits working to address mental health needs in our community. Thanks to the generosity of people across St. Croix Valley, we were able to grant over \$100,000 last year to support mental health services and programs.

Why are you running for School Board?

My family's experiences with Hudson schools, teachers, and other families have deepened my appreciation for the strong commitment our community has to our schools. Over the years, I've seen firsthand how collaboration can spark positive change, and I want to be a part of that effort. I also know that strong schools, with rigorous academic programs and a wide range of extracurricular activities, play a vital role in building strong communities. They not only provide our children with opportunities to succeed but also help drive economic growth by attracting families and businesses who recognize the value of a high-quality education system.

Hudson School District is facing a significant financial challenge. The funding gap threatens our ability to maintain the quality of education our students deserve and community expects. If left unaddressed, these deficits could lead to larger class sizes, cuts to essential programs, and challenges in retaining the skilled teachers and staff who are the backbone of our schools. One key factor contributing to this shortfall is the state's failure to keep school funding in line with inflation. This has led to a loss of approximately \$11 million in funding for our district this year alone. But we cannot wait for the state to take action. While these challenges are significant, I believe that by working together—school leaders, families, and the community—we can ensure that Hudson School District not only remains a leader in academic excellence but also stays fiscally responsible, providing our students with the resources and support they need to thrive. I am running because I believe that together, as a community, we can address these challenges. Our schools aren't just buildings—they are the heart of Hudson, and I want to be a voice for continued growth and innovation. I am committed to the success of our schools and would be honored to have your vote this spring. Together, we can continue building a strong, supportive, and successful school community and a stronger Hudson!

Addison Filiatreaux |



Describe your background:

I grew up in River Falls, Wisconsin, and my husband and I moved to Hudson twelve years ago. Both of our sons go to Willow River Elementary and are in pre-k and 2nd grade and love it. I graduated in 2009 from

UW-Eau Claire with an English education comprehensive degree and earned my master's in Reading from UW-River Falls. Now, I am pursuing a second master's in school administration from Hamline University. Over the past fifteen years, I have taught grades 1-12 in English Language Arts and/or reading intervention in suburban, urban, and rural schools. I have been a lead teacher, instructional coach, curriculum and program coordinator, student council advisor, newspaper/yearbook advisor, and cross country/basketball coach at the schools I have worked at. I have the same science of reading training as Hudson staff, which will be important as Act 20 (the reading act) is implemented in our district. As the only candidate with a teacher, administrator, parent, and community lens, I believe my experiences will be an asset to the board.

Describe your involvement in the Hudson School District or Hudson community:

I have served on the Teaching and Learning Advisory Committee for the past four years, the Health and Human Growth Development committee, and will serve on the Character Education Council. Since I also teach, it is trickier to be involved during the school day with our parent group, but I try to be involved with the Willow River Parent group when able. Within the community, I have volunteered for the Hudson Area Public Library by helping organize the Voices in the Valley events as well as the phonics take home kits. I have also worked with St. Croix County Moms Demand Action to help educate people around safe storage of guns to reduce the risk of suicide or accidents. Finally, I have served on the Minnesota Literacy Council to review the science of reading act that was passed there, and it has many similarities to the Act 20 reading act.

Why are you running for School Board?

I am running for several reasons, but the main reason is to maintain high quality educational opportunities for all students. As the only candidate and board member that has classroom experience, I can provide perspective of what it is like for teachers in education now and can ask questions that others may not think to because they do not have the same experiences. With budget cuts looming, there should be someone serving on the board who can speak to an educator's perspective and has been in the classroom recently. Furthermore, I have had my position cut due to

district-wide budget cuts, and I hope to help save as many jobs as possible since it is an awful experience whether someone is working in the private or public sector. As a Willow River parent, I know how much school closures will impact all elementary families due to drawing new boundaries. I would like to have collaborative conversations surrounding this, to soften the impact and find workable solutions.

I would like to use my role as a school board member to continue to support policies that help all students. The district has made gains with mental health, and as someone who has been on the front lines supporting students and families by helping them find resources, I will continue to support policies that help our students and their families. Additionally, special education funding is only reimbursed at 30 percent, so the district is having to reach into the general fund to support our highest needs students. If the state would reimburse at 60 percent, it would free up about 4 million dollars from the general fund to be used for operational funds. I believe that all levels of government should work together, and my hope is to work with our state level of government to fix this funding gap, so we do not have to shut down our community schools and keep asking for referendums in order to operate. As a board member, I will listen to all perspectives and ideas, be responsive, and work to ensure we have the best education possible for our future - all of our kids.

Joe Rivera |



Describe your background:

I am a dedicated public servant, veteran, husband, parent, and dog dad with a deep commitment to education, leadership, and community service. Throughout my career, I have developed a strong background

in strategic planning, policy development, budget formulation and organizational leadership—skills that I believe are essential for making informed, responsible decisions that benefit our schools and students.

For over 22 years, I have worked in various human resources roles, including serving as a Deputy Director of HR. I have been responsible for leading large divisions of various professionals, workforce development, and operational improvement. My efforts ensured that organizations ran efficiently, while supporting the needs of employees and stakeholders. These roles required careful attention to policy, accountability, and the ability to collaborate with multiple agencies to achieve common goals.

My 20 years in the Air Force instilled in me the values of integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do—principles that continue to guide my personal and professional decisions. As a veteran, I bring firsthand experience in advocating for critical resources and services.

Most importantly, as a father of two young children, I am deeply invested in the education system in Hudson, which will play a crucial role in shaping their future. Like all parents, I want my children to receive the best possible education in a safe, supportive, and academically rigorous environment. My professional background, military service, and personal investment in our schools equip me with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to serve as an effective advocate for students, teachers, and families in our district. I believe that strong schools are the foundation of a thriving community. My commitment to our schools will ensure that Hudson continues to provide high-quality education that prepares students for a successful future.

Describe your involvement in the Hudson School District or Hudson community:

Since moving to Hudson, I have been an active member of the community, engaging with local organizations and attending school board meetings. I am a member of the Hudson School District Teaching and Learning Advisory Council (TLAC), that is comprised of district administrators, teachers, and parents. The mission of the council is to represent the interests of the community as they relate to curriculum, instruction, intervention, and assessment.

My family and I chose to make Hudson our home because of its excellent schools and welcoming community, and I am dedicated to keeping it a great place to raise a family.

As a parent, I regularly engage with teachers, attend school events, and stay informed about district policies that affect our children. I have also seen firsthand the challenges that families face, whether in navigating curriculum changes, ensuring adequate resources for students, or maintaining transparency in decision-making. My experiences have given me valuable insight into the needs of both students and parents in the district.

Beyond the schools, I am actively involved in the broader Hudson community. My military service instilled in me a lifelong commitment to service, and I continue to give back by mentoring students, young professionals and veterans.

My involvement has always been driven by a desire to improve the systems that shape our future. As a school board member, I would bring this same commitment to ensuring that Hudson schools provide a high-quality education, and remain accountable to the families they serve.

Why are you running for School Board?

Professionally I am running for the Hudson School Board because I believe that strong schools are the foundation of a stronger community. As a parent, veteran, and experienced leader, I want to ensure that our schools continue to provide the best possible education for our children, while remaining fiscally responsible and transparent to the taxpayers who support them.

I strongly support maintaining high academic standards, equipping students not only with knowledge, but also with critical thinking skills, resilience, and the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing society.

I believe that education should always put students first. I offer a fair and balanced leadership style that is crucial to their success. By maintaining a focus on high academic standards and a commitment to excellence, we can create an environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive. A non-partisan approach to decision-making allows us to prioritize what truly matters—equipping students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed, supporting our dedicated educators, and ensuring responsible stewardship of district resources. By working together, we can build a stronger school system that fosters achievement, innovation, and a bright future for all Hudson students.

Furthermore, my background in human resources and policy development has given me the skills to analyze budgets, improve operational efficiency, and implement policies that have a real impact. I understand the importance of accountability and transparency, and I will work to ensure that parents, teachers, and community members have a voice in shaping the direction of our schools.

Ultimately, I am running for school board because I want to be a champion for the students and families of Hudson. I am committed to ensuring that every child in our district receives a high-quality education in a safe, and supportive environment.

Erin Gerlach | gerlachforhudson.com
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Describe your background:

My family has deep roots in the community. I am an alumnus of St. Patrick's School and Hudson High. I attended college for graphic design,

marketing, and advertising, along with business management and human resources credits. I also have continued education certifications in health and wellness. My husband and I have three children, aged 9, 12, and 16, and I have actively volunteered as a parent in both the public and private schools in Hudson.

Professionally, I bring strong leadership, financial oversight, and strategic planning experience as a full-time Sales & Marketing Director. With 10+ years in Human Resources, I have a deep understanding of organizational management, accountability, and employee relations and retention.

In my free time, I love spending time outdoors with my family, whether enjoying the sunshine or gathering around campfires. My hobbies include creating art, gardening for medicinal purposes, taking scent classes with my dog, hiking, fishing, participating in an archery league, and focusing on wellness.

Describe your involvement in the Hudson School District or Hudson community:

My involvement in the Hudson School District began six years ago when discussions on redrawing school boundary lines directly impacted my family. My children were among those affected, moving from River Crest Elementary to Hudson Prairie. This experience sparked my interest in school board decisions and how they affect students and families.

Today, my oldest daughter attends Hudson High School and is also enrolled in the Hudson Virtual Charter School (WVS), where I serve as a board member.

I've been actively involved in our community as an event coordinator, a Bible School teacher, and a participant in the district's 'Future Search' project and community Referendum Discussions. I served as the PTO President of Trinity Academy for two years, working with a team to strengthen family-school partnerships, support teachers, and enhance fundraising efforts. I will also be serving on the Character Education Council, focusing on the future of education and the values we instill in our students.

Why are you running for School Board?

I am running for the school board to return to the basics of what schools should do: focus on education. It's important to let kids be free from distractions like social issues and cell

phones in the classroom. We need to hold both students and teachers accountable in their respective roles and encourage family involvement in this process.

While our schools are being well-maintained and updated, academic proficiency continues to decline due to lowered standards. As a mother and someone who manages employees, I have a personal stake in the success of our schools. We need common-sense policies that foster a focused and respectful learning environment with accountability at all levels.

The school board must prioritize academics in every decision, ensuring a transparent curriculum while managing our budget effectively. Despite a deficit, simply increasing funding will not improve our children's proficiency outcomes. We must refocus on practical solutions that drive student success.

Hudson is a strong community; together, we can defend, support, and strengthen our public schools. I ask for your vote on April 1st.

Lynn Robson |



Describe your background:

I am an experienced commercial real estate broker, with decades of successful work in negotiation, business planning, operations management, coaching, and development. My thirty-year career as a broker and business

executive began with a Bachelor of Arts focused on International Business from the University of St. Thomas. Prior to my work in the real estate industry, I was a leader in the automotive industry as the CFO for Morrie's Automotive Group (8 years) and as the Senior Director of Financial Operations for the Luther Automotive Group (17 years). In these roles, I focused on mergers and acquisitions, land use development, real estate, and manufacturer relationships. During my tenure with Morrie's, I led the company through an acquisition through the sale to private equity firm of 13 dealerships.

Describe your involvement in the Hudson School District or Hudson community:

My husband David and I have lived and worked in Hudson since 1995, and both of our daughters are proud graduates of Hudson High (2019 and 2024). In 2013, David and I were honored to be the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Marie Blakeman Award for community service. As an active community member, my volunteerism has included service on the Y Partners Board, the Steering Committee for the Capital Campaign for the Hudson Hockey Association, Hudson Daybreak

Rotary Club's finance committee, and the Board of the Hudson Blue Line Club. I have previously served on Hudson's School Board from 2008 -2018, and again from 2023 - current. In addition to serving as a school board member, I have been actively involved in school district meetings including the three-day community conversation, the School Start Time Advisory Committee.

Why are you running for School Board?

I feel that I am uniquely qualified to fill this role based on my experience as a Hudson School Board member. During my tenure, I have demonstrated the qualities of being collaborative, transparent, an effective communicator, and someone that strives to build consensus even when making difficult decisions. I put the education of all our students as my first priority when making decisions with limited resources. I feel, as a community member, that staying educated on the business of the district is important and a responsibility of all community members. I am passionate about the quality of education in our community and recognize the role it plays in the health of our community. I am committed to serving the district by being a strong community leader and an active advocate for the goals of the district.

Bryan Dahl |



Describe your background:

I feel fortunate to have both local roots here in Hudson and experiences living and working in other communities. I'm a proud graduate of Hudson Schools. I attended K-5 at Houlton Elementary, middle school in the building that is now Willow River,

I was part of the last 8th grade class in the old junior high, and graduated from Hudson High School in 1998. In 2002, I graduated from St. John's University, majoring in history. My first job after college was as an English teacher in China, where I learned two things: I didn't have what it takes to be a great teacher and that great teachers mean the world to the success of our students and schools. Eventually I attended graduate school for public policy and started my career in public finance and budgeting in 2008.

Today, my wife and I live in St. Joseph with our three active kids and rambunctious puppy. We love Hudson for many reasons, with strong schools and our active community at the top of the list.

Describe your involvement in the Hudson School District or Hudson community:

First and foremost, I'm a parent with kids in our public schools. Our daughters are in 2nd & 5th grade at Houlton Elementary and we have a 4-year-son...who feels a long way

away from kindergarten. I also grew up here: my gumball machine from shop class sits proudly in my daughter's room, my wife still smirks at the stories (and photos) from my swing choir days, and some of my dearest friendships started here. Most of my time outside of work is devoted to family and my kids' activities, including dance at the Phipps, basketball at the YMCA and Mako Aquatics swim club. We also enjoy attending shows at the Phipps and the high school, sporting events, and spending time outdoors - hiking and skiing at Willow River, boating on Bass Lake in the summer and skiing at Trollhaugen in the winter. In the time I've had to pursue my own interests I've found myself drawn to the school community. My family participates in many events at the Hudson library, I was part of the Hudson Schools Facilities Task Force in 2021 and I'm currently involved in the community conversations to address our budget challenges. I'm also a long-time enthusiast of the Houlton Bazaar - a fundraising event that has been going strong for 60+ years!

Why are you running for School Board?

I know we have strong public schools in this community and I want to keep it that way. I believe that our strong public schools are the backbone of our community and feel that I can bring a voice of pragmatism and experience to help guide the district through its current fiscal challenges. My professional life is devoted to solving budget challenges and I know the importance of balancing short term needs with the long term stability. If elected I would plan to center every board decision around the goal of developing our students into well-rounded citizens. I also believe it's vital that board members bring compassion to their work: we need to remember that every child in our schools has a different story and life experience. Some have the support they need at home and some need more from their school. Reminding ourselves to be compassionate in our discourse and policy making will result in the best for our kids. I also believe all "systems" - whether your family or the school district - require trust, respect and collaboration to function well. If elected, I will remain dedicated to those pillars and strong two-way communication with the community. Finally, I am more convinced everyday that our school district, community and society as a whole needs to address how we interact with technology and social media. As a board member, I will work to examine and update the district's policies on student access to personal devices and school-provided technology to ensure that the district is fostering a positive and anxiety-free learning environment.

To learn more about me and my campaign please visit bryandahl4hudson.com