

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J.C. Stehlik, Chair	Korine Wawrzynski, <i>Vice-Chair</i>
Meghan Block, <i>Member</i>	Ed Busch, <i>Member</i>
Sasha Ereg, <i>Member</i>	Kim Fritz, <i>Member</i>
Daria LaFave, <i>Member</i>	Kevin Mehigh, <i>Member</i>
Laura Millard Ross, <i>Member</i>	Julie O'Brien, <i>Member</i>
Steve Cook, <i>Superintendent</i>	Diane Lindbert, <i>Assoc. Superintendent</i>

Supporting the best quality public education is more important than ever. Your contributions to the Foundation have an immediate impact on teaching and learning and will help us provide the powerful enrichment experiences that are transforming the lives of Haslett's students every year. Since inception in 1989, the Foundation for Haslett Schools has raised funds to support unique educational needs, new ideas, and innovative programs that are beyond the normal Haslett School District budget.

### Some of the Programs Funded by the Foundation Include:

- Mini-grants for teachers' new ideas and educational concepts, including classroom Smartboards
- Scholarships for graduating seniors
- Authors/Artists-in-Residence programs
- Specially-targeted educational materials for "at-risk" kindergarten students
- Information technology, such as Chromebooks for economically disadvantaged students
- New equipment for Haslett High School's award-winning cable access channel, Haslett Media Productions
- STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics—programs
- Science Olympiad
- Haslett High School Performing Arts Center
- Phonics programs

To Donate Visit: [www.foundationforhaslettschools.org](http://www.foundationforhaslettschools.org)

**FOUND<sup>A+</sup>ATION**  
for Haslett Schools

*"Funding beyond the fundamentals: A community commitment"*

# Meet the Candidates for Haslett School Board

*Hosted by*

**FOUND<sup>A+</sup>ATION**  
for Haslett Schools

*"Funding beyond the fundamentals: A community commitment"*

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Performing Arts Center**

**Haslett High School**

*Event will also be streamed LIVE on the  
Haslett Media Pro-YouTube channel*

# PROGRAM

## Introductions

Heather Meingast, *Moderator*

## Introductory Remarks

Each board candidate will share biographical information, their qualifications, history with Haslett and reasons for seeking a position on the Board of Education.

## Questions for Candidates

Each candidate will respond to questions presented in a round-robin style facilitated by the Moderator.

## Closing Statements

Each board candidate will make a closing statement to support their candidacy.

## Foundation Mission Statement

*The Foundation for Haslett Schools exists to provide an enriched educational experience for students.*

*We raise funds to support programs that go beyond the fundamentals.*

### Event Committee:

*Ed Busch, AmyJo Duckett, Heather Meingast  
Jennifer Thompson, J.C. Stehlik*

## Korine Wawrzynski 6-Year Term



A quality education can be transformative to a student's life, and my goal is to help the Haslett School District provide high-quality education for students of all abilities and backgrounds as well as support the district's teachers and administrators. I have lived in Haslett for 17 years, and my middle school-aged child has attended Haslett Schools since Kindergarten. Currently, I am an active board member for the Foundation for Haslett Schools. I'm also an educator. My college degree prepared me to teach at the K-12 level, and in my present career in higher education, I serve as an assistant dean at Michigan State University, where I take a very student-centered approach to education.

As a first-generation American and a first-generation college graduate, I understand the students and families have different needs in their educational journeys. If elected to the Haslett Board of Education, my priorities will focus on these areas: strengthen communications between the school district and families, improve student safety and mental health, ensure that students receive high quality education and opportunities, support teacher pay that is competitive and equitable, and create a welcoming educational environment for all students.

I bring over two decades of experience as a university administrator and educator. I am an analytic and pragmatic thinker, a strong communicator, and a compassionate individual who values integrity.

## Molly Polverento

6-Year Term



I am seeking re-election because I believe I have the experience and skills to support our District's goals and help the District continue as one of the best in Michigan.

In 2005, my husband and I moved to Haslett because of the many positive things we heard about the community, particularly the schools. Since moving here, we have enjoyed getting involved and watching our kids (ages 15, 13, and 8) participate in opportunities through our schools.

I want all Haslett students to have similar positive experiences during their years at Haslett. For me, this means we need to continue our investment in evidence-based curriculum and educational support services so that all students can achieve their academic goals. We also need to continue to expand our behavioral and mental health services, working with our community partners to make sure that our students have access to the help they need. It is important that all our students are supported and celebrated across our schools and that we structure our programs, services, and environment for all of our students. And we need to make sure that Haslett remains a district where the best education professionals want to work, by not only providing competitive salaries, benefits, and professional development, but by engaging our staff as partners in serving our community.

I believe my six years on the Haslett Board of Education; years serving on community, nonprofit, and professional boards; and my professional background in evaluation and human resources provide me with a range of skills which I hope to continue to use for the benefit of Haslett Public Schools.

## Linda Cogswell

6-Year Term



My name is Linda Cogswell, and I am a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. I am a Haslett resident and daycare provider for my great grandson, a future Haslett Viking! I am thankful to be part of a safe and friendly community such as ours.

I have decided to run for a seat on the Haslett School Board because I believe that the education of our youth is key to our future as a nation and a world. The more we as parents, grandparents, community members, and society as a whole care—the better the outcome for our future generations.

Although most of my career was in the insurance industry, I have also owned my own business. One being a new concept in Tennessee, which was very successful, and another in the restaurant industry. I am thankful to have been able to retire a few years ago and am excited to find myself with time to volunteer for my community!

I have served on the Downtown Development Authority Board of my prior community and am an active member of and volunteer for the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion Post 412.

I believe my years of experience, both personally and professionally, have given me many strengths that would be beneficial to a Board of Education position. I am able to create and maintain a fiscally responsible budget, retain staff through difficult times and situations, form meaningful relationships with community members who have become friends, and find solutions to existing problems and difficulties presented to me.

## Monica Del Castillo

2-Year Term



I was appointed to the Haslett School Board 1 ½ years ago, and I'm running to finish out the 2-year term.

I have a passion for education and kids! I'm a retired mental health counselor from Lansing Community College. I was employed at the college for 25 years and worked with diverse student populations. I also served as the President of the Academic Senate while at LCC. Consequently, I have a unique perspective into student needs and services required to help students be successful.

On a personal note, I was born in Cuba. My family immigrated to the US when I was 5 years old. My parents instilled the value that education was the only path moving forward. Hard work and special people along the way (my village) helped me achieve the "American Dream." Those same values I passed on to my daughter Katie, who graduated from Haslett High School this spring. She played sports, was the drum major in the band and a member of the Honor Society. Katie is taking a gap year to serve in AmeriCorps.

As an involved Haslett parent, I am keenly aware of all the good work that teachers/staff do to support students. I am also aware that we have opportunities to make Haslett even better. I fully support and hope to engage in the district's roll-out of the DEI Plan. I'll also continue to strongly advocate for Social Emotional Learning initiatives to support our students. And as a Latina woman and a member of the LGBTQ community, I bring much needed diversity to the make-up of the Haslett Board of Education. If kids can't see it, they can't be it!

## Patty McPhee

6-Year Term



Parent, Resident (22 years),  
3 Haslett Graduates, Small Business  
Owner, Warehouse Employee,  
Substitute Teacher

**Qualifications:** There are two qualifications to become a board member: I meet both criteria. I am a Citizen of the United States, qualified and registered voter in the Haslett Public School District.

**History with Haslett Schools:**

HPS District Parent from 2000-2022  
PTO Officer/President 2003-2015 (few gap years)  
Coordinated Teacher Stipend Fundraising, Teacher and Staff Appreciation Luncheons, Carnivals, Mileage Club, Picture Day, Book Fair and Classroom Volunteer. Most treasured "Picture Person" teaching children about an Artist and creating an Art Project. Finally, Substitute teacher for several years.

**Reason for Seeking BOE Position:** I have followed BOE meetings, especially budgets/pupil funding for teachers and students. Since virtual learning, I've observed some concerning changes in HPS. Students falling behind with failed Covid mandates, less parent/guardian participation, reports of nepotism/bullying going unresolved and an uptick of HHS teacher social justice goals superseding curriculum guidelines. In a district of amazing, dedicated teachers how is this acceptable/happening?? French class isn't Civics so, I'm focusing on more parent/guardian transparency, emphasis on academics, and securing resources for teachers and our students in need. I've spent hours in every district building over the years. One huge gift to students/teachers/parents are Paraprofessionals and we pay them horribly. I would start here forward positive.

The Haslett BOE has one role: Supervision of free public K-12 education. They are to bring students, parents, educators, and community together. I don't find our current Board of Education following these guidelines and would embrace the opportunity to be a part of the process that brings back the A+ to HPS.

## Amanda Luther

6-Year Term



My name is Amanda Luther and I am a proud mom of three boys, a wife, and a small business owner. I love volunteering, learning new things and have a heart for children, animals, and the elderly.

My husband and I moved to Haslett in 2014, based on the excellent reputation of the educational system in the district. This community has been a great fit for our family, with the friendly people and the MANY activities and natural attractions offered through the township and schools! We love the Haslett Community!

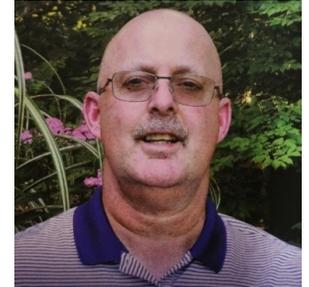
My career began in the real estate industry, eventually becoming State Manager of my company's Michigan locations. I then made the choice to be a stay-at-home mom, which then led to becoming a small business owner and entrepreneur.

I believe that my experiences have taught me how to effectively listen to and understand differing viewpoints, communicate in a productive manner, and work towards solutions with people on all sides of issues to reach an ultimate goal. As a business owner, I am familiar with and able to maintain a budget and understand the importance of fiscal responsibility.

I feel that our community and our schools need to continue to focus on academic excellence (while providing the teachers and students with the tools to do so), anti-bullying, and continual updating of safety measures in all schools. I believe communication is key, to any relationship, and therefore, communication and transparency would be a focus of mine, as Trustee. As a Trustee, I will work to represent the will of the parents, students, teachers, and community, and I'd appreciate your vote on November 8!

## Terry Goldberg

2-Year Term



Resident of Haslett for 27 years,  
2 Haslett Graduates (Tyler and Trevor  
Goldberg), Small Business Owner

**Qualifications:** I am a Citizen of the United States, and I am a qualified and registered voter in the Haslett Public School District.

**History with Haslett Schools:** Parent volunteer on various student trips and projects. Participated in multiple fundraising, Teacher/Staff Appreciation luncheons, Carnivals, Mileage Club, Book Fair. Volunteered in multiple Special Olympics supporting the special needs department and donated chairs and tables, volunteered for unified sports and donated time and materials repainting the special needs resource room in the middle school.

**Reason for Seeking BOE Position:** I have been attending Haslett School Board meetings and have some concerns since even before the start of Covid. I feel we need a proactive school board that will communicate with the children, parents, teachers, and community. The board needs to foster complete transparency and open, ongoing communications between all groups. I want to be a voice and advocate for every student, parent, and community member regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, and abilities. No child should ever have a predetermined educational outcome based on someone else's opinion. Especially students that may have a disability. Special Needs students need us to encourage them and provide them the resources to make them successful. I also feel we need to advocate for teachers and staff to ensure they have the tools they need to be successful. In addition to this we need to ensure teachers are being paid a competitive wage in order to retain them. When they are successful, the students will be successful. I want to help oversee the school budget and spending of tax dollars received. Every dollar received through taxes from a community member contributed to Haslett Public Schools needs to have a positive and effective impact on a student's education.

## **Kirsten Kelly**

**6-Year Term**



My husband and three children relocated to Haslett from Saline in 2015. I have twin boys in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and a daughter in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We chose to relocate to Haslett based on the excellence of the schools and the strong sense of community. I am originally from Harbor Springs and I attended Michigan State University where I received a degree from the College of Human Ecology.

I currently manage the President's House, Cowles House events, and Spartan Football Donor events for the University. My entire life has been dedicated to serving others. This includes being involved with the schools and community by volunteering as a sports coach, in the classroom, and fundraising events like the Race for Ralya. I am also the co-founder of the class of 2027 Sunshine Crew which was formed to create a positive and supportive environment for all students in sports and extracurricular activities.

I am running for the Haslett School Board to encourage and build upon the success of Haslett Public Schools. I want to create a culture of support for teachers, which is vital to student success. I want to encourage open and transparent communication and improve our commitment to a challenging curriculum that prepares our students for life after high school. I also want to be proactive and participate in the implementation of the District's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan. Most importantly, I want to provide for the safety and welfare for our students' mental health through an anti-bullying campaign.

I believe that as a community and as parents we should be working together and not tearing each other down. We need to actively listen and show compassion while making decisions that are best for our schools and community. We need open and transparent communication and a focus on mental health in addition to rigorous academics. I know that I can honor these duties as a member of your school board.

## **Robin Lewis**

**6-Year Term**



I earned a degree in Food Science and Nutrition from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. After marrying my college sweetheart, I moved to Lansing and started a family. My husband and I bought our home in Meridian Township in 2019, after living in Lansing for over 30 years. Since that time, I have become involved with the Haslett School District with our youngest daughter attending Murphy and now Haslett Middle School.

My public service career began with the Ingham County Health Department. I retired as a Registered Sanitarian in 2011.

I have always believed in serving the community in which I live. My community involvement has included serving on numerous boards and organizations, including serving on the Lansing School District Board of Education (Board Secretary last 4 years of my term), PTO/PTA member of Cavanaugh and Cumberland Elementary Schools, Gardner Middle School, and Everett High School, Downtown YMCA Advisory Board, appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm two terms to the Michigan Board of Sanitarian Advisory Committee, and Past President of the Ingham County Employee Association Employee Union

I currently serve as a parent representative on the Haslett Public School's Equity Planning Committee and as the Secretary on the Ingham County Racial Equity Task Force. I am also a board member for CATA representing Meridian Township and I serve as a Trustee for the Ebersole Foundation which is an environmental education center. Every child has the right to a quality education. Service is something that I value. I will use my experience to work in collaboration with all stakeholders to bring together voices so each group is heard and attended to.