



MEMORANDUM

TO: Local District Superintendents
FROM: Jason Mellema
DATE: May 12, 2023

Re: Ingham ISD Board of Education Candidate/Election

The deadline for filing for a seat on Ingham Intermediate School District's Board of Education was Monday, May 8, 2023.

Two (2) candidates have filed to run for the two (2) open six-year board seats:

- Lori Zajac, Incumbent, who resides in Holt.
- John Wolenberg, Incumbent, who resides in East Lansing.

We requested biographical information from all candidates; however, the candidates may also contact you directly. Please forward the candidate names and the attached biographies from our candidates to your board members.

According to current statute, Monday, May 15, 2023 is the earliest date a local district board can adopt a resolution to approve the district's voting representative and designate the two Ingham ISD candidates the board supports.

Ingham ISD's board members are elected by the local district boards of education which include Dansville, East Lansing, Haslett, Holt, Lansing, Leslie, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Waverly, Webberville, and Williamston. The representatives from these local districts will convene at Ingham ISD on June 5 at 6:00 p.m. to cast votes that reflect resolutions passed by their boards. An official notice about the election date, time, and location will be sent to your board secretary on May 26. A copy will also be sent to your office.

In the meantime, after your board takes action, please forward the resolution approving your representative and designating your board's two candidate choices for the Ingham ISD board to my office.

Please contact Barbara Weathers, 517.244.1230 or bweathers@inghamisd.org, if you have any questions about the election procedures or any other related matters.

Thank you for your assistance.

Attachments

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DISTRICT'S ELECTION REPRESENTATIVE

[To be adopted on or after May 15, 2023]

_____ (the "District")

A _____ meeting of the board of education of the District (the "Board") was held in the _____, within the boundaries of the District, on the _____ day of _____, 2023, at _____ o'clock in the _____ PM

The meeting was called to order by _____, President.

Present: Members

Absent: Members

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member _____ and supported by Member _____:

WHEREAS:

1. The biennial election of the Board of Ingham Intermediate School District, Michigan (the "ISD Board") will be held on Monday, June 5, 2023; and
2. The members of the ISD Board will be elected by an electoral body composed of one (1) person designated by the board of each of the constituent school districts; and
3. In accordance with Section 614(2) of the Revised School Code, MCL 380.614(2), this Board desires to designate _____ as this District's proposed representative and _____ as an alternate designated representative in the event the designated representative is unable to attend and further desires to direct said representative and alternate to vote on behalf of this Board for a specific candidate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This Board does hereby approve the designation of _____ as the representative of this Board for the electoral body, which body will elect two (2) candidates to the vacancies on the ISD Board on Monday, June 5, 2023 and _____ as an alternate in the event the designated representative is unable to attend.
2. The designated representative and alternate are further directed to cast a vote on the first ballot on behalf of this Board for _____ and _____.
3. The Secretary of this Board is hereby further directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Secretary of the ISD Board.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and the same are hereby rescinded.

Ayes: Members

Nays: Members

Resolution declared adopted.

Secretary, Board of Education

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of _____, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a _____ meeting held on _____, 20__, the original of which is part of the Board's minutes. The undersigned further certifies that notice of the meeting was given to the public pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Meetings Act" (Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended).

Secretary, Board of Education

School Board Candidate Biographical Information

NAME: John C. Wolenberg

ADDRESS: 2459 Barnsbury Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823

SCHOOL DISTRICT WHERE YOU CURRENTLY RESIDE: Haslett

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration - Central Michigan University

Master of Business Administration - Central Michigan University

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND:

2018 to present - Retired

As a former Certified Public Accountant, I do continue to provide tax services for a small group of loyal clients.

1993-2018 - Consultant & Real Estate Development

As a consultant, I worked with businesses and individuals, particularly related to financial negotiations and enterprise assessment, assisting both business buyers and sellers. I have also been active in real estate development, mostly in the Lansing area.

1978-1993 - Michigan State University

At MSU, I worked with the Institute for Community Development, specializing in local government finance and organization, and taught government accounting for the College of Business. I also served as an Assistant Dean for the College of Lifelong Education.

1975-1978 - Michigan Department of Treasury, Bureau of Local Government Financial Services

1971-1975 - Accounting Instructor, Central Michigan University

PREVIOUS BOARD EXPERIENCE AND YEARS OF SERVICE:

2005 to present - Board Member, Ingham ISD

I was elected to the Ingham Intermediate School District Board of Education in 2005 and re-elected in 2011. I have served as Trustee, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. I have also served on the policy, technology, curriculum and budget committees and as the board representative to Ingham School Officers Association. I have supported policy initiatives that promote collaboration among local districts and also between local districts and Ingham ISD.

1989-2014 - Board Member, Foundation for Haslett Schools

I was a Board Member of the Foundation for Haslett Schools for 25 years and served on a variety of committees. I am very proud of our work through the Foundation which helped teachers, staff and administrators define diversity for the Haslett Public Schools. I developed the Foundation's Proud Sponsors of Books Program which helped add hundreds of books to every building's library.

1981-1989 - Board Member, Meridian Charter Township Planning Commission

1987-1989 – served as Chair

OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE AND YEARS OFF SERVICE:

I enjoy helping kids. For that reason, I coached youth baseball, basketball, hockey and soccer for thirty years from 1984 to 2014. During that time, I coached soccer for kids from 5 to 18 years of age as well as high school aged hockey players. I founded the Haslett Soccer Club.

1990-2010 - Board Member, East Side Soccer Club

1995 - served as Board President

1997-2009 - served as Board Vice President

1994-2000 – Board Member, Greater Lansing Area Hockey Association

I was a Board Member of the Greater Lansing Area Hockey Association from 1994 to 2000, including two years as president. At the time, the Lansing area had only one "sheet" of ice. I helped to bring the Dome to Washington Park as well as two rinks each to East Lansing and Lansing's west side.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

On a personal note, I'm married to Carol. We have two adult sons and are the proud, doting grandparents of three grandsons and a granddaughter. Our home is in Meridian Township which puts us equal distance from our sons and their families who live in West Bloomfield and Grand Rapids. We also enjoy spoiling Finn, our golden retriever puppy, and love hiking with him at Rose Lake.

I have been a member of the Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD) board for eighteen years. While my home district is Haslett, I have always acted as a representative of all 12 IISD constituent districts. I am proud of the IISD programs in Special Education, Early Childhood Readiness, professional development services, career preparation through the Wilson Talent Center, and the IISD advocacy for Multi-Tiered Support Systems. I am proud and privileged to be a member of the IISD Board, and believe my background, IISD experience, knowledge and temperament make me uniquely qualified to serve on the IISD Board.

The Ingham Intermediate School District Strategic Plan lists the organization's core values as Collaboration, Compassion, Innovation, Integrity, and Student Focus. I feel all five core values are compelling; however, I believe IISD Board members must concentrate first on the following core values.

Collaboration which is defined as follows: "We will seek, share and respect diverse perspectives. We will function as a team with our colleagues and stakeholders to define and achieve common goals." Collaboration with constituent districts is of vital importance to the effectiveness of IISD programming. The IISD cannot simply offer our constituent districts a list of services. It is the IISD Board's obligation to see that constituent districts and the IISD value the IISD services equally.

Integrity which is defined as follows: "We will be honest, trustworthy, respectful and ethical. We will honor our commitments and be accountable for our actions." The IISD must be forthright about the results of its programs. The IISD must employ data driven methodology to determine the success or failure of programs. It is incumbent on the IISD Board to see that all programs are evaluated and the results are communicated to staff, constituent districts, and individual program participants.

Student Focus which is defined as follows: "We will place students and their success as the driving force behind our decisions." The IISD is in business to provide services to students and by extension to their families. The IISD employs administrators, teachers, support staff, and engages contractors and vendors in order to provide students with the best possible services. The IISD Board must always ask the question "how does this help students and is this the best way to help our students?"



School Board Candidate Biographical Information

Name: Lori Zajac

Address: 3840 Lone Pine Dr, Apt #3
Holt MI 48842

School district where you currently reside: Holt Public Schools

Educational background: Graduate of Lansing Community College – 1982
Graduate of Holt Public Schools – 1980

Present occupation: Account Executive at JFP Benefit Management, Inc. (Sept. '99 to Current)
(Third Party Administrator/Group Life-Health Insurance Agent)

Previous board experience; please include years of services:

Ingham Intermediate School District Board of Education – August 2018 to Current
Holt Public Schools Board of Education – November 2005 through June 2017
-Vice President (2014) & President (2015-2017)
Ingham School Officers Association-ISOA Representative – 5 Years
-President (2016/17)

Other public service or volunteer experience; please include years of service:

BSA/CubMaster for Pack 640 (8 years)
Co-Chairperson of Horizon Elementary Organization of Parents/Staff-PTO (4 years)
Destination Imagination-Reg'l Sales/Mktg Coordinator & Team/Account Administrator (7 years)
Holt Athletic Booster Club
-Football Rep-7 years; Executive Board Secretary-3 years
Judson Memorial Baptist Church - Lansing
-Financial Secretary-8 years; Elder Board Secretary-9 years; Church Clerk-2 years

Any other information you would like to share with the constituent districts which may assist them in learning more about you, focusing on why you want to serve on the Ingham ISD Board of Education.

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Any other information you would like to share with the constituent districts which may assist them in learning more about you, focusing on why you want to serve on the Ingham ISD Board of Education.

For much of the same reason that my family chose to become part of the Ingham Intermediate School District when I was very young (as part of the Holt/Dimondale community back in 1968), my husband and I similarly chose to remain within the area/district when starting our own family over 30 years ago...predominantly because of the exceptional schools and educational opportunities within Ingham County. It has always been with a tremendous amount of pride and conviction that our entire family has strived to maintain very active roles within the community at large...with most of our time & energy focused on various school programs and/or student-athlete organizations. Based on that strong desire to 'serve' in some capacity or another, my motivation has always been the passion I have for encouraging and/or creating opportunities for *all* students/children. Having the chance to be a part of anything that supports, promotes and provides for a world class education for each & every one of them has always been a privilege...and a responsibility that I do not take lightly.

In the midst of recent challenges facing us all (from pandemics to matters of safety to ongoing financial demands, etc.), it has become an even bigger priority to be part of a team/board that emphasizes the importance of steady, thoughtful guidance for our administrators, teachers, staff, students and families at the ISD & Local Districts. Even in the midst of those very unique & ever-evolving obstacles, it remains an honor to play a small part in the process of navigating those challenges while never losing sight our key goal and the importance of maintaining and encouraging high quality educational/vocational opportunities for all students...the type of learning opportunities that are present & are continuing to develop right here in Mid-Michigan. I strive to support the ongoing initiatives that are genuinely aimed at enhancing student learning performance & solid educational programs in Ingham County...all within a rapidly evolving environment based on those very unique & extremely pressing challenges for which we must always be prepared to adapt and respond to quickly - for the continued safety and educational support for all of our learners/families/staff.

I thank you for any consideration you are willing to extend to me as a continuing member of the Ingham Intermediate School District's Board of Education. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any additional questions...I am always interested in hearing your opinions and (for those of you that know me personally can attest), I eagerly look forward to discussing 'all things education' at every opportunity! Your support in the upcoming election...along with the ongoing work you all devote to the students in Ingham County is sincerely appreciated.

Thank you,
Lori Zajac