

GEOFF MANIS



Background:

Geoff is a sixth generation Moline resident who is actively raising a 7th generation. Throughout his educational pathway, he attended Garfield Elementary, Seton Catholic Middle School, Alleman High School, and Western Illinois University.

Connection to MCV District:

His son, Harper, is a 6th grader at John Deere Middle School, and his daughter, Hayden, is a 2nd grader at Hamilton Elementary School. Currently, he is the President of Moline Youth Basketball, and a Board Member for Moline Little League.

Goals as a BOE Member:

Geoff is passionate about ensuring our schools provide the best possible environment for every student and believes every student deserves access to the resources and opportunities they need to succeed, no matter their background. He will advocate for policies that foster fairness and inclusivity in all aspects of education. He will prioritize initiatives that enhance mental health resources and promote a culture of well-being in our schools. He'll work to ensure our schools are equipped with the tools and spaces needed to prepare our students for the future.

SARAH BALKOVEK



Background:

Sarah is a lifelong Moline resident and a graduate of Moline High School. She attended college at Saint Mary's College in South Bend, IN, and the University of Innsbruck in Innsbruck, Austria, where she studied Political Science, Accounting, and German. She completed her degree in Accounting at St. Ambrose University.

Connection to MCV District:

She is a single mom of five girls, four of which have attended three schools in the Moline School system over 7 years. She has experienced the Moline School District as the child of an educator, as a student, and now as a parent. She has volunteered with JA, Rotary, and the Girl Scouts in the Moline schools.

Goals as a BOE Member:

Sarah looks forward to balancing the needs of the students, the educators, and the community when making the best decisions for the school district.



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CHESTON DESMET



Background:

Chet was born in Davenport but was raised in Moline. He attended Moline Schools from Roosevelt to Franklin to Wilson and ultimately graduated from MHS. He has been a proud Moliner his whole life.

Connection to MCV District:

His stepson Evan is a senior at MHS and his daughter Ashlyn is in 8th grade at Wilson. His stepdaughter Emily graduated from MHS in 2020. Chet has also been a member of the MCV Board of Education since 2021.

Goals as a BOE Member:

Chet hopes to continue pushing towards broader pathways in education, namely career readiness and technical education programs. He will advocate for equity in resources across all of our buildings for students and staff both. He will also push for continued, responsible facilities' upgrades and improvements.

LAURA SIVERTSEN



Background:

Laura grew up in Moline, went to Wilson Middle School and Moline High School. She attended elementary School in East Moline. For college, she graduated from University of Illinois for undergrad and University of Iowa for her MBA.

Connection to MCV District:

She and her husband have a son in 8th grade at Wilson who is active in a variety of activities, including athletics and WEB Leadership. Also, Laura has been heavily involved in community building with students and young professionals such as being a 20+ year volunteer teacher with JA in Moline, working with local high schools on career readiness, resume writing and interviewing skills.

Goals as a BOE Member:

Laura feels strongly that our most important responsibility is to prepare our students for life beyond high school in a way that is engaging and interesting to each of them.

W. WAYNE MARLOW



Background:

Wayne is a native of Kansas and a graduate of Pittsburg State University. He and his family have lived in Moline for 13 years.

Connection to MCV District:

He has five children in three district schools and has been an involved parent, especially at Jane Addams. There, he served as PTA president, vice-president, school carnival chair, yearbook editor, Kindergarten Roundup Chair, PTA membership chair, perennial Home Room Parent, and a member of several committees.

Goals as a BOE Member:

Wayne feels the Bartlett Performing Arts Center and the Moline High School weight room are two of the district's jewels and would like to see this level of commitment given to the elementary schools that are in need of improved infrastructure and surroundings. Also, he believes our counselors should be equipped with all the tools necessary to carry out their vital mission.