



Board of Education Member Profile

Katie Christensen

Name: Katie Christensen

Board member since: 2022

Family: 2 children - one FPS graduate and one FPS high schooler

Occupation: Non-profit state leader

1. Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I'm a non-profit state leader and mother of two children. In 2001, I received a bachelor's degree in education and spent six years teaching middle school and high school Spanish. After taking time off work to stay home with my kids, I pursued a master's degree in human development and family science. In 2012, I joined Planned Parenthood North Central States as an educator with a primary focus on positive youth development, parent-child connectedness and expanding access to much needed programming for vulnerable youth.

Throughout my children's time in the Fargo schools, I've been active with book fairs, sports teams, volunteering in the classroom, and supporting the theater program. I'm eager to bring my experiences as a professional, former teacher, and parent to the School Board.

2. What was the reason you ran for a Board position?

Since moving to Fargo, I have supported the schools through various volunteer opportunities. However, over the past few years I've become increasingly concerned with the undue expectations being placed on our teachers, efforts to divert funding away from our public schools, and overall student wellbeing. These concerns motivated me to seek a more active role in improving, protecting, and contributing to our schools.

3. What do you see as big challenges for the District going forward? Challenges for K-12 education in North Dakota?

At the moment, I see recovering from the pandemic as our biggest challenge. The 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey for North Dakota shows students are experiencing increases in feelings of sadness and difficulty concentrating while also feeling more disconnected from parents at home and adults in the school building. Furthermore, we're seeing teachers and staff leave the profession at higher rates than ever before. It's clear that our educational professionals are feeling overworked and unappreciated. These issues motivated me to run for a seat on the Board and seek solutions.

4. Something you're proud of as a representative of the Fargo Public Schools:

I'm proud to serve as a representative of a district that aims to provide the best possible education and opportunities for all youth in our region. Additionally, our district provides exceptional fine arts education beyond anything that I've seen in other districts.

