



# Board of Education Member Profile

*Rebecca Knutson*

**Name:** Rebecca Knutson

**Board Member since:** 2014

**Family/Children:** Children – John, Fargo South High School graduate, attended NDSU & now attends UND; Olivia, junior at Fargo North High School; Sophia, junior at Fargo North High School

**Occupation:** Communications (Advertising, Marketing, Public Relations, Event Planning, Project Management)

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

*I am a homeowner in north Fargo, near Trollwood Park. Previously, I was a homeowner in the Hawthorne Neighborhood for approximately six years. Prior to that, I owned a home in the Clara Barton Neighborhood for 16 years, and in north Fargo, near El Zagal Golf Course, for almost two years.*

*I am a member of the Fargo North Booster Club and at North, my daughters have been involved in a variety of activities, including hockey, swimming and tennis, and during their elementary and middle school years played hockey through the Fargo Youth Hockey Association. I enjoyed serving as a team manager numerous years for Fargo Youth Hockey. The girls also enjoyed horseback riding at Brady Equestrian Center. While at Fargo South, my son participated in football, hockey and baseball.*

*I represented Clara Barton-Hawthorne as a Task Force member for the Fargo Public Schools Long Range Facility Plan. During that time I worked with others in the community to form the Alliance for Neighborhood Schools. I believe the way to shape a community is by being an active participant, which is why I have spoken at numerous City Commission, Planning, and Historic Preservation Commission meetings about issues related to improving our community, as well as at Fargo School Board meetings prior to being elected a board member. I assisted on the City of Fargo's community development committee (planning department) to expand the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) and volunteered with the City of Fargo to serve on a sign code committee. While living in the Clara Barton Neighborhood, I enjoyed serving as the Clara Barton Neighborhood Association president, and I am a past member of the Hawthorne Neighborhood Association.*

*I am an NDSU graduate with a degree in Mass Communications, a board member of Prairie Roots Food Co-op, and am a runner in many Fargo Marathon events, also running the Twin Cities Marathon (Minneapolis/St. Paul), Army 10-Miler (Washington, D.C) and Denver Half Marathon.*

*I enjoy the cause-related marketing work I do for non-profits, organizations and volunteer groups.*

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# Rebecca Knutson, continued

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

*I served as the Clara Barton/Hawthorne representative on the Fargo Public Schools Long Range Facility Plan Task Force. This group discussed and made recommendations in relation to over-crowded and underutilized schools, the budget, maintenance needs of all our schools, balancing student socio-economics, school boundaries and how the district will be impacted by the city's projected population growth. As a Board member, I hope to have a positive impact on these issues and more. I am committed to furthering a process of public engagement and being a good steward of citizen's tax dollars while helping ensure that our educational system remains a source of pride. I intend to listen carefully and be well researched.*

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

*We are truly living in an ever-changing time, where the physical, emotional and financial health of our society is being stretched and strained due to a global pandemic. The public is beginning to demand that organizations, businesses and public institutions address disparities and practices that contribute to systemic racism as well as the climate crisis. I believe our public school system must be part of the solution. Additionally, with Fargo's growth comes the responsibility of effective management of the District's resources. Broad-based, collaborative thinking regarding issues, including educating our diverse population, making the best use of the assets we have in our existing buildings, and providing the resources teachers need to do their professional job, will go a long way. The District is fortunate that taxpayers and citizens want to be involved in developing solutions to the challenges facing Fargo's education program.*

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

*Fargo is a special place to live, work, and go to school. I am proud of the opportunities available to us through the challenges we face. I continue to enjoy analyzing how our educational system is serving/supporting/strengthening our entire Fargo community...educationally, as we prepare kids for their future; economically, as the district is a large contributor to the workforce of our community; and Fargo's quality of life, as schools support the vitality, health and security of our neighborhoods and greater community.*

