

Bettendorf Community School District
2017 Board Candidate Profile



Name	Pepper Trahan
Email Address	peppertrahan@gmail.com
Address	6328 Patrick Pointe Rd., Davenport, IA
Occupation	Currently I am serving in my 8th year on the Bettendorf school board. Previous employment included Commercial Lender at National Westminster Bank and Davenport Bank & Trust as well as a Tax Analyst at Price Waterhouse.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master's Degree in Finance and Accounting from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. • Bachelor's Degree in Business Economics and Public Policy from Indiana University, Bloomington.
How long have you lived in the district?	I have lived in the district for most of the past 25 years.
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Husband: (Jeff) • Sons: Kevin (24), Scottie (22), and Mikey (19) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kevin - 2015 graduate (Journalism) from Northwestern University, will be entering law school at University of Texas - Austin this fall ○ Scottie - 2017 graduate (Mechanical Engineering) from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor ○ Mikey - will be entering his sophomore year (Ross School of Business) at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
School/District activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bettendorf School District Board Director (Sep09 - present) • Helped organize ""Backpack with Snacks"" program for multiple Bettendorf Schools • Treasurer/Secretary, Parent Link at BMS (Aug07-Jan12) • Led science and math groups throughout the school year at Paul Norton for eight years and Continental Math League for three years • Guided a weekly book club at BMS for 2 years
Are you a Bettendorf High School graduate? If so, what year?	No
Other experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel youth soccer team manager (5 years) • Volunteer for Y Quad Cities Rowing (5 years)
What motivates you to want to become a board member?	<p>What initially motivated me to run for school board eight years ago was wanting to make the schools the best they could be not only for my children, but for the whole community. Prior to being elected to the board, I had spent a great deal of time volunteering in the schools. As I volunteered, I discussed my ideas for improving the district with family and friends. My oldest son encouraged me to run for school board so my ideas could come to fruition.</p> <p>I have accomplished many things in the past eight years: encouraging board members to debate issues and voice their opinions so that things were not just rubber stamped; continually challenging administration to provide an easier transition for students between middle school and high school when it comes to writing skills; reducing class size in the elementary schools despite objection with some board members and administration; making sure that Herbert Hoover became a full three section school so teachers didn't have to play "musical classrooms" each year; fighting to bring back a</p>

	<p>teaching position at the high school when budgets were being cut; and fighting to add teaching positions over new administrative positions.</p> <p>I am seeking re-election because I really enjoy doing this work and I want to continue working on the issues facing the school district.</p>
<p>What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member?</p>	<p>I have a very strong finance background so when it comes to understanding the financial aspects of the school district, I feel I have a lot to offer and I'm very comfortable in that area.</p> <p>My many years of volunteering in the schools (and having had three children go through the district) gives me first-hand experience in how the board can ensure the right policies and initiatives are in place to improve outcomes for all students. Even though I have served eight years on this board, the passion I have for this district remains strong and there is more that I would like to accomplish, thus I am seeking a third term.</p>
<p>What specific strengths would you bring to the board?</p>	<p>Characteristics that sets me apart from other board members is my ability to listen to all sides of an issue and then reach a resolution based on the facts. No board member spends more time than I do researching issues and talking with parents, teachers, administrators, and community members to get their perspectives on school district matters.</p> <p>Another strength is my ability to be open-minded and fair in reaching a decision on a controversial topic. Even people who disagree with me know that my decisions are guided by objectivity and what is right for the district as a whole.</p>