

Bettendorf Community School District
2021 Board Candidate Profile



Name Linda Smithson

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Facebook Page [smithson4bettschools](https://www.facebook.com/smithson4bettschools)

Address 1550 Tanglefoot Ln., Bettendorf

Occupation Teacher Librarian, Davenport Schools

Education Currently a Master's student at the School of Library Science - University of Iowa
Masters in Science, Reading Specialist Degree - Western Illinois University
Master's Endorsement in ESL - William Penn
BA Elementary Education - St. Ambrose University

How long have you lived in the district? 16 years

Family Husband Jeff and two children in the district: a junior and a 6th grader.

School/District activities SIAC, Paul Norton PTA, Music Boosters, High School Focus group.



Are you a Bettendorf High School graduate?
If so, what year?

No

Why do you want to serve as a school board member?

Our students have been through a very difficult time in the last 18 months. They have done a great job adapting, but that does not mean it has been, or will be, easy for them. Teachers have struggled with teaching online, in person and hybrid. The demands put upon them have been challenging to say the least. The changes they have gone through have been tough. Our students and teachers are a testament to resiliency. Having a school board that supports them is paramount to creating a community that fosters great education.

I believe the Bettendorf School District is making positive changes. I believe that our students and teachers deserve the best, both in education and support. Our community has many strengths, yet we should identify opportunities for further growth and equity for all. Having the courage to address needs and move forward will make our schools stronger. I want to help support our school and move Bettendorf Schools towards the future. I have the strength and conviction to do so.

What skills and/or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member?

I am a long-time teacher in the Davenport district and a parent of two students in Bettendorf. This helps me to understand the needs of students and families, as well as the support needed for teachers. I am familiar with the ways schools work, the difficulties they face and have experience bringing solutions to the forefront.

Having two children who are going through Bettendorf Schools keeps me aware of the issues and struggles they and others face. I've participated in many groups in the schools, including SIAC and a focus group at the high school. I listen and learn from those around me, particularly our students and teachers.

A few years ago, the school I work at was faced with closing. I worked, along with a small group, to advocate for the students and families who would be affected. In the end, another solution was found. I am familiar with how school boards have to make difficult choices. I always keep what is best for all students, especially those whose voices may not be heard.

I have served in leadership positions in my own school, helping to analyze data and look for ways to improve. I work to stay current with educational strategies and pedagogy. I am a lifelong learner and learn every day from those around me.

What strengths will you bring to the school board?

I am a vocal advocate for families, students and teachers. Making the best decisions can be difficult. I always try to look at situations from all sides and search for the best solution. I am acutely aware that change takes time and effort and can be hard.

I believe in public schools. They are one of the greatest assets in our country. Public schools have a responsibility to their communities to bring forth the best in all children. This requires education and support for students, staff and families. One of the strengths that I bring is a commitment to equity. Every student in our district should have positive experiences and connections to others. I want all students, no matter their background, to succeed and I believe that ALL can. Our schools create our future.