



The UTSWC Executive Board has endorsed four candidates in the upcoming school board election. There are four seats available each with a four-year term. Candidates receiving our endorsement are Elizabeth Bockman Eckberg, Louise Hinz, Katie Schwartz, and Sharon VanLeer. Screenings were held the evenings of August 18 and 19 with several members from the UTSWC attending. The screening team forwarded their recommendation to our executive board.

All nine candidates chose to screen with us. Those participating in the screening were Elizabeth Bockman Eckberg, Chad Borseth, Travis Dahle, Bryn Forstner, Louise Hinz, Juan Huerta, Lori Pecchia Michalski, Katie Schwartz, and Sharon VanLeer.

Below are a few of the reasons we have endorsed Elizabeth, Louise, Katie, and Sharon.

Elizabeth Bockman Eckberg:

- Former classroom teacher and member of the UTSWC for 10 years.
- Currently serves as Curriculum Design and Implementation Leader for the University of Minnesota Medical School.
- Feels that “how we respect our teachers is how we respect our students.”
- Eager to address achievement gaps in all grade levels.
- Desires also to address teacher retention through tackling workload.
- Sees community engagement as a means to build consensus.

Louise Hinz (incumbent):

- Retired teacher and member of the UTSWC for 22 years. Her spouse is a lifelong member of Ironworkers 512.
- Feels that “public schools were created for the public good, so all citizens and businesses in our district need to be included.”
- Believes that decisions in a classroom should include voices and opinions from experts in the classroom.
- Guided by curiosity and empathy.
- Sees district commitment to the education of the whole child as a strength.

- Understands the complexities of school district operations as a parent, educator, community member, and incumbent.

Katie Schwartz (incumbent):

- A graduate of our district, she also has children and grandchildren in attendance at our schools.
- Takes pride in our district where “students are free to be who they are.”
- Interested in improving the diversity of voices heard by the school board.
- Wants to work to encourage graduates to return as educators in the district.
- Recognizes teacher and student safety as paramount.
- Sees work-life balance for educators as key for retention.

Sharon VanLeer (incumbent):

- Knowledgeable and prepared to meet oncoming budget constraints.
- Staunch advocate for equity and inclusion.
- Works to ensure that “learning opportunities exist for all students, that students are supported, encouraged, and academically challenged.”
- Sees conversation and dialogue as tools for effecting change.
- Fact- and data-driven.
- Understands the importance of collaborating with community, staff, and other stakeholders.

Voting takes place on November 4, but voting begins on Friday, September 19. Contact your City Hall for more information and voting hours.

This independent expenditure is prepared and paid for by the United Teachers of South Washington County, 2042 Wooddale Dr #100, Woodbury, MN 55125 in support of the above-named candidates. This material is not approved by the candidates nor are the candidates responsible for it.