

Anne Utech

Headshot: 

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**1) Personal information: How long have you been a resident of the district? What is your professional and educational background? What past experience do you have serving in elected positions or community organizations?**

I have been a resident of Germantown School District since 2015. I received my bachelor of arts in Business Administration from Nebraska Wesleyan University before moving to Wisconsin to work for Quad/Graphics, Inc-first as a corporate trainee, then as a sales service representative. I retired to be at home with my 4 children; now that they are all in school full time (3 at Amy Belle Elementary and 1 at Kennedy Middle School) I started Anne's Helping Hands, LLC, a home cleaning service. I've been involved at Amy Belle Elementary since 2019 as a parent, volunteer and PTA member, and I currently serve as PTA President, leading fundraising efforts and organizing school events. In this role, I work closely with teachers and staff and have built strong relationships within the school community. With a child now at Kennedy Middle School, I've also begun volunteering and building connections there. In addition, I coach youth sports through the Germantown Park & Recreation Department and the Germantown Jr. Warhawks volleyball league. I am also a classroom leader volunteer at Crossway Church's Sussex location. These roles have given me a direct, day-to-day understanding of what students, teachers and families need to feel supported and succeed.

**2) Why are you seeking election to the Germantown School Board?**

I'm running for School Board because our district needs new voices — especially parent voices. There is a clear lack of trust between parents, the community, the Board, administration, and staff. I want to help rebuild that trust and serve as a bridge between these groups. I'm ready to bring my experience in community involvement and relationship-building to the broader district and help move our school district forward together.

**3) What are the two to four key issues facing the district and what is your approach to them?**

I believe the most pressing issue facing our district is the lack of trust between parents, staff, the Board, and the administration. At the root of that distrust is poor and mis-communication. I believe we can take practical steps to improve transparency and engagement. First, the Board should send a detailed email one week prior to each committee and board meeting outlining the agenda items and providing additional context. This would give families and staff time to review, ask questions, and feel informed before decisions are made. Second, I would support creating and possibly hosting a brief post-meeting podcast to explain the discussion behind key decisions and the reasoning that shapes policy. Hearing directly from board members in a more conversational format could help demystify the process. Third, we should transcribe all meeting

recordings. Transcriptions would make the information more accessible to individuals of all abilities and would allow recordings to be searchable, making it easier for community members to find the information most relevant to them. Improving communication is a practical first step toward rebuilding trust in our district.

I believe another issue facing our district is one that is similar to many other public school districts: providing access to high-quality education for all students while remaining fiscally responsible. This can be addressed by attracting and retaining high quality educators; and managing our budget wisely so we can focus on providing our students with strong tools for learning through curriculum, investments in technology and maintaining our buildings. We can attract educators through these things, as well as our community.

#### **4) What else do you want voters to know that I haven't previously brought up?**

I am running for School Board to strengthen openness and communication. I believe families and staff deserve a board that listens, responds and works in partnership with the entire community, including those of us who live outside the village of Germantown. My focus is on bringing people together - making sure voices are heard and conversations are welcomed.

As a board member, I will:

- \*Listen to families, teachers and students
- \*Bring community feedback directly to the Board table
- \*Advocate for clear, authentic communication from the Board to the community
- \*Look at issues with a parent's perspective, not a bureaucratic mindset

Above all, I want parents and staff to feel connected to their schools and confident in the future of the district. I will always approach my work with empathy, common sense and a genuine love for the community where I am raising my family. I believe Germantown's strength lies in its people - and I am ready to serve them.