



LANSING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD CANDIDATE SUMMARY – 2024

(Please return with your petition no later than 5:00pm, Monday, April 22nd)

NAME: Ami Stallone (Walter)

EDUCATION: Lansing HS ('94); Cornell University (BA, Communication); Columbia University (MA, Education)

CHILDREN (Names and Grades): Andrew (7th), Daniel (9th), Jonathan (10th), William (11th), Thomas (freshman in college), Martin (junior in college)

STRENGTH(S) OF THE DISTRICT AS YOU SEE THEM:

Lansing is my hometown, and I love the people who live here! We are a small, close-knit community that values family, friendships, and education. Lansing schools have a reputation for excellence in academics, music, and athletics. Our high school received the prestigious Blue-Ribbon School designation in 2017. We attract some of the most passionate, talented, and caring teachers and families. When my husband got a job at Cayuga Medical Center in 2009, we didn't look seriously at homes in any other district. We believed that, at Lansing, our kids would receive a top-notch education, have many extra-curricular opportunities, and grow up in an environment where they would be safe, connected, and not lost in the shuffle of a larger school district. Like us, many people choose to live and work here because of the proud tradition of excellence at Lansing CSD.

DISTRICT ISSUES WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED:

Recent years have given me reason to worry that Lansing's tradition of excellence cannot be taken for granted. We are facing eroding trust within the community, growing negativity, and significant staffing turnovers/shortages. While these problems are being felt in public schools across the nation, I believe that poor communication, a lack of accountability, and weak relationship management by the administration and past boards are at the core of our issues here in Lansing. People need to know their voices are being heard and respected. Considerate oversight of taxpayer dollars, management of the Superintendent, and responding effectively to concerns and interests of the community are all primary responsibilities of an elected BoE. Taking these roles seriously is critical to building trust and cultivating a safe culture that welcomes opportunities for growth and improvement. With all the moving parts of a district, we also need a Strategic Plan that is developed and maintained with collaboration from diverse stakeholders. This will provide an agreed-upon set of goals and expectations to guide decision-making and hold everyone accountable. With strong communication and clear vision, LCSD will overcome these challenging times.

STRENGTH(S) YOU HAVE WHICH WOULD MAKE YOU A GOOD BOARD MEMBER:

I approach this candidacy with humility and a heart of service but also with an awareness that I have a lot to offer as a member of the board. I have an education/professional background in teaching, and I cherish my years in Philadelphia as an elementary and middle school teacher. Despite leaving a formal career to raise my family, education and children have remained my passion and focus. While too many to list, I have worked/volunteered in numerous positions that have supported students and promoted education from preschool to college admissions and every step in between. As a Lansing alum, my local friendships and connections span three generations and will ensure that I have valuable insights into the broad needs and sentiments of our community. I owe my most significant strengths, however, to being the mother of six boys who have all grown up here in Lansing and have each taken me on very different K-12 journeys. For 15 years as Lansing parents, my husband and I have seen our district in different lights and from various perspectives. I believe that teachers, friends, and administrators who know me best would agree that I am an engaged, thoughtful, open-minded team player as well as a passionate and unapologetic advocate for ALL students!

ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE VOTERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU AND WHY YOU ARE RUNNING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD:

There are a lot of things to celebrate and be proud of at Lansing, but the overall climate of the district in recent years is a genuine concern shared by many. To the exhausted teachers, frustrated parents, demoralized students, and taxpayers who are pushing back – I hear you! I am running for this position in the spirit of trying to be the change I wish to see in my world.