

General Election - HPS School Board

Candidate Questions

Mat Habrock

What are your top three priorities for the HPS Board of Education?

1. Recruitment and retention of high-quality educators, support staff and administrators.
2. Ensuring educational success for students of all abilities.
3. Providing oversight of the budget to ensure that taxpayers' dollars are used efficiently and effectively.

Early childhood education programs lay crucial groundwork for students throughout their K-12 journey. As a member of the HPS School Board, how would you suggest improving our children's early educational experiences?

My wife and I have been involved firsthand in early childhood education as the owners of the Hastings Early Child Development Center. I believe that the HPS School Board and HPS staff can provide leadership and expertise to build the capacity of early childhood education opportunities throughout the community. Through strong collaboration we can prepare children for success in their educational journey, while also providing support for Hastings working families.

With budgets being tight, what strategies do you suggest to reduce spending while ensuring that the quality of education remains high for all students?

As a school board member, my intentions are to represent the needs of taxpayers while ensuring quality education experiences for students and the resources necessary to support educators and staff.

It is important that budget decisions prioritize educational outcomes for students. This includes having the resources necessary to attract and retain high quality educators.



With those considerations in mind, I believe that it is important to explore opportunities to maximize the public investment through efficiency and collaboration. It is also critical that the HPS Board and administration staff identify opportunities to allocate budget resources, without diminishing the value of education provided to students.

What other potential areas for collaboration between the HPS School Board and local organizations would you endorse?

I believe it is important that Hastings Public Schools needs to be more involved with early childhood education within our community. Access to quality early childhood education is a struggle for working families throughout Hastings and the greater economic region that Hastings supports.

Through collaboration with HPS, we can enhance the capacity of the early childhood education sector. By investing in early childhood education, we will prepare students for success in their education journey and support the working families that are the backbone of our local economy. HPS collaboration can serve as the catalyst for development and enhancement of early child education.

What relevant experiences or education do you have that would make you a strong fit for this position?

As an owner of the Hastings Early Child Development Center I have firsthand experience supporting teachers, creating successful learning environments and managing operational resources. This experience has inspired me to want to continue to support high quality educational experience for students of all abilities. It has also helped me to appreciate the value of educators and the need to recruit and retain the best staff possible.

I have also served in various community and statewide leadership positions that have helped to provide me with an array of skills to serve the HPS School Board. I have served on the Hastings Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors including time as the organization's Chairman. This experience helped me to better understand the needs of the community and fueled my love for Hastings.



I am a graduate of Leadership Hastings. Have served on the Board of Directors including two years as Chairman of the Nebraska 4-H Foundation. I am an alumnus of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. I have also been shaped by my experience in the public school system as a graduate of Wayne High School.

I love Hastings and I believe that our education system is our greatest resource. I look forward to sharing my passion with the HPS School Board.

