

MEET THE CANDIDATE

Hello! My name is Josh Bennett and I live in Gilbert with my wife and three kids. I was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska where I met my wife who is originally from Iowa. We relocated to the area in 2013. With our kids ranging between toddler and second grader, we will be personally invested in the district for well over the next 15 years.

The teachers and staff have been instrumental in helping us navigate through some learning challenges with one of our children. The staff is highly experienced and professional and has the administrative support they need to make decisions. Teachers thrive when they are supported well and encouraged to use their strengths, and as a result so do our children. Our desire is to make sure that this support continues. This focus is critically important as the school district is experiencing rapid population growth.

I have been in Firefighting/EMS since 2007 and have worked for the city of Ames since 2013, most recently as a Fire Lieutenant. I have an associate's degree in Fire Protection Technology and will be finishing my bachelor's degree in Healthcare Administration in January. I have served as a mentor for local college students and am a member, and former board member for an Iowa nonprofit that provides firefighter training. I am currently the volunteer EMS Captain for the Gilbert Fire Department. This has given me the opportunity to learn more about the district through emergency planning and preparedness measures, and the occasional 911 call. I have experience with public budgets, long and short-term goal setting, and the most economical ways to procure (or avoid) large capital items through my time in public service. I have also written many successful grant applications for a variety of local agencies. I would be humbled to serve the community and the school district as a member of the school board.

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