

# QUESTIONS FOR THE **CANDIDATES**

## **Josh Bennett**

### **What do you see as the most important role of a school board member?**

The board member must clearly understand the school district's goals and expectations to measure any potential decision against those standards. This is true whether the discussion is initiated by the board or in response to something brought by district administrators, staff, parents, or even outside stakeholders. By doing this, the board member honors the district by keeping competing outside interests or policies from being inserted into a system built specifically for our needs.

### **Why did you decide to run this year, and why should the community vote for you as a school board member?**

We have been incredibly appreciative of the work done at the elementary school on behalf of our oldest child in response to some learning struggles educationally and relationally. We saw the upcoming board openings as a way to give back to the district as an expression of our gratitude. As far as why someone may decide to vote for me, I do have tangible experience with many tasks related to a school district. Previously, I served as the training officer for the Ames Fire Department. This role included budgeting for annual training operations and large capital expenses, curriculum development, and positive and negative performance management of staff members.

### **Please identify what you think is the greatest challenge our district faces.**

The district is rapidly increasing in population as a result of many residential developments. With student to staff ratios playing a large part in any district's ability to educate, we must ensure that facility and staff expansions are appropriately fine tuned to respond to these increases. This also means that forward thinking, while necessary, does not turn into wasteful spending as a result of new and attractive revenue options. Our future plans must be well thought out and include contingencies for unexpected growth patterns both up or down.

