

## **School Board Trustee Candidate Profiles**

### **Election May 7th, 2024**

#### **Alan Anderson**

As a lifelong resident of Polson and a Polson School District board trustee for the last 10 years, I've seen many positive changes happen within our education system and school district. I've always been a huge advocate for the education of our youth as they are the future of not only our local communities but our great state of Montana and the United States of America. I know that there is more that needs to be done and I still have the drive to see our school district keep growing and do what is in best interest for all of our youth as well as our parents and community members.



School district funding is easily one of the biggest issues that we will continue to face going forward. Education funding continues to be slashed at the state level pushing more and more of the funding burden onto local tax payers who are already at or beyond the limit of affordability in Polson School District. There are no easy solutions to address this issue, but as a Polson School District trustee, I have and will continue to work hard to keep the tax burden for our local taxpayers as low as possible without compromising the quality of education that we need to be offering our students for their future success.

#### **Tim McGinnis**

I moved to Polson 32 years ago as the owner/chef of the Rancho Deluxe Supper Club and the Rio Café Mexican Restaurant along with my wife Jennifer. In 2004, we made the decision to change careers to spend more time with our children Eryn and Shannon, who are both successful graduates of Polson Schools. I am currently self-employed as a realtor and a licensed real estate appraiser. I have a BA in Anthropology from the University of Montana. With the career change came the opportunity to give back to my community and profession by volunteering on numerous local and state boards, including the Polson School Board as a Trustee. I believe my business background and extensive board experience brings value to the Polson School District.



#### **Tony Muzquiz**

Hello. I've served on the board for the past six years, and during that time, I feel like I listened to the teachers, administration, parents, and students to make the best decisions about improving the Polson schools. My experience has allowed me to see the importance of giving voice to the perspectives of the underrepresented students and families in our school system.



## Kathleen Collins

Kathleen Collins, “Kat” to friends and colleagues, has been a member of the Polson community since 2017, when she retired and moved back to Montana to be her mother’s caregiver. She has strong ties to Montana, graduating from Montana State University in 1980 with a degree in Microbiology. A twenty-year career in the Clinical Laboratory included employment at St. Patrick’s Hospital in Missoula and Marcus Daly Hospital in Hamilton.



In 2004, Kat completed her MAEd with the University of Phoenix and received her Teaching Certificate from the State of Arizona. She accepted a position with the Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA) in 2005. She taught Biology, Environmental Science and A.P. in both disciplines at Lakenheath High School, RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk, England until she retired.

Why do you want to be on the Polson School Board?

As a former educator, I have a personal interest in public education and a desire to continue to contribute where I can. I believe that children are our greatest resource and that every child is deserving of an excellent education. My experience as a teacher and as a parent has taught me the importance of clear expectations and not losing sight of the goal. It has given me a balanced perspective on the importance of collaboration in determining methods that encourage success for every student. My life experience has taught me that being part of a diverse community inspires creativity, demands critical thinking, and encourages empathy. I believe that Polson is fortunate to have a school district where community leaders, parents, teachers, staff, and community members are committed to building a coalition dedicated to providing our children with the skills and knowledge that will prepare them for the future.

What issues/problems do you think the board will face?

The 2024-2027 Strategic Action Plan that was just adopted by the school board is a testament to the high standards and clear objectives aimed at addressing the challenges of the future. Polson school district will face the same issues that school districts across the country are experiencing:

1. Declining student attendance in a post-Covid environment.
2. Adapting to advancing technology, utilizing it to enhance the education process but not allowing it to become a distraction that hinders student learning.
3. Facing the challenges of how to prepare students for the future in a rapidly changing world where so much is uncertain.

These issues and others as they arise will require a proactive approach and the collective abilities and talents of all stakeholders.

