

Candidate Name: Janice Barter \_\_\_\_\_

Office Seeking: \_\_\_MSAD #61 School Board\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information (optional): \_\_\_\_\_Janicec.barter@gmail.com\_\_\_\_\_

Campaign Website or Social Media (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Submission Deadline: **APRIL 14, 2026**\_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed questionnaires to: \_\_\_The Clerks Office\_\_\_\_\_

### Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for running for local office and for taking the time to share information with our community. This questionnaire is intended to help residents learn more about the candidates running in the upcoming municipal election.

Please limit responses to **150–200 words per question**. Responses may be shared on our website and social media to inform voters.

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#### 1. Tell us about yourself.

Please share a little about your background, your connection to the community, and what motivated you to run for this position.

**I have lived in Naples for 40+ years with my husband and 2 sons. My sons attended Lake Region schools from Kindergarten through High School. I am motivated to run for School Board because I believe that all students should have an education that helps them fulfill their own individual plans for the future. Every child has a different need and a different learning style and I'd like to be a member of the Board that keeps that in mind as curriculum and financial plans are developed going forward.**

#### 2. Have you previously held a public office, board position, or community leadership role?

If yes, please describe the role(s), when you served, and what you learned from that experience. If not, please share other experiences that have prepared you for this position.

**I have served on the School Board for 27 years. I've served on the Board committees ( Liaison, Personnel, Curriculum, Facilities, and Finance), the Board Advisory committees (Adult Ed and Vocational Ed), the Board Building Committees (Stevens Brook Elementary, Lake Region High School, Vocational Center, Bus Garage, and Crooked River Elementary), as well as Board negotiator in contracts with all of the different employee groups. I've served on the State Strategic Planning Committee for Vocational Education. In the span of 40 years in Naples I've volunteered in past Halloween parties, was a co-chair of the original recreation committee, and the usual mom duty of working the snack shack during football games. I've also been a ballot clerk at most elections for the past 40 years.**

### **3. Why are you the best candidate for this role?**

What skills, experience, or perspective do you bring that would help you serve effectively in this position?

**I'm the best candidate for this role because of the knowledge I've gained in the years I've been on the board. I can speak confidently about the budgeting process, the transportation and maintenance needs of our schools, as well as the curriculum and staffing necessities. But most importantly I listen to people and help to achieve compromise and understanding in difficult circumstances.**

### **4. What do you believe are the top 2–3 issues currently facing our town?**

How would you work to address these issues if elected?

**I believe the top issues the District must deal with are:**

**The safety of our school buildings,**

**The quality of the education offered to students,**

**The financial impact on the 3 towns in MSAD #61.**

**The district has worked to ensure the safety of our schools with an Emergency Response Committee that consists of representatives from every District building, local and county police, fire and rescue personnel. I will continue to push for more safety measures at each building.**

**The district regularly assesses student needs and pairs students with teachers who can best support their growth. The Curriculum Committee is reviewing scores and testing and asking questions to better understand how to help both students and teachers to use the new technology in moving the district forward. I will continue to focus on student progress.**

**And finally, the school budget. This is the hardest to address. The demands of what a school system must provide to students are great at both the state and federal level. And at a local level the schools must be safe, students should thrive, and the staff feels valued. The Board works incredibly hard to balance all those needs with the financial impact to the towns. I will continue to ask the question – need or want?**

### **5. How will you engage with residents and ensure transparency in local government?**

What specific steps would you take to keep the community informed and involved?

**The School Board meetings need to be better publicized. The only time that the community comes to a board meeting is to either celebrate their child or if there is a big school-based controversy. There are Zoom meeting links but it is not well attended. If I'm elected I would try to get more presentations on the agenda that would interest the community. Communication is the key factor to show our community that any questions or concerns they have are being addressed.**

**6. What is one goal you would like to accomplish during your term if elected?**

Please describe what success would look like and how you would work toward it.

**The district needs to find a communication tool that reaches more than just the in-school system group. The Bridgton News or signs at the school buildings can't be the only options. There needs to be a platform that spreads the word of everything happening in the district to every person in the 3 communities. I want to help find the means to get that done.**

**Success would be better attendance at school board meetings, Public Hearings and District Budget meetings. Success would be everyone knowing and understanding that our school system puts kids first.**