

## Clark School Board election is set for June 20, four candidates vying for two positions

Four candidates are vying for two positions on the Clark School Board. The upcoming election is June 20, 2023 and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The Clark School Board race will have incumbent Malory McIntire, Travis Peterson, Lacey Ortberg and James Waldner running for the two three-year terms.

The polling place in each precinct of this district is as follows:

**Clark Precinct:** City Hall Community Center (Includes City of Clark, Woodland, Garfield, Lincoln, Darlington, Merton, Day, Foxton and Mt. Pleasant townships.)

**Bradley Precinct:** Bradley Community Center (Includes City of Bradley, Blaine, Cottonwood, Spring Valley, Thorp and Warren townships.)

**Raymond Precinct:** Raymond Fire Hall (Includes City of Raymond, Fordham, Logan, Ash and Raymond townships.)

**Garden City Precinct:** Garden City Methodist Church (Includes City of Garden City, Maydell, Eden and Elrod townships.)

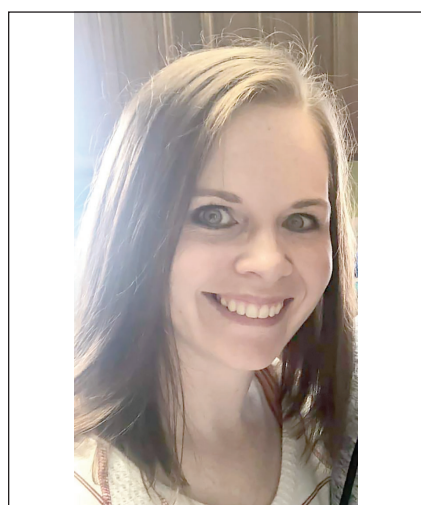
Each candidate was asked seven questions and their answers follow:

**Please provide a brief biography of yourself, including education, family and career.**

**Malory McIntire** - I've lived in Clark since the day I was born to my parents, Larry and Lola Bartels. I graduated from Clark High School in 2007, where I was active in multiple activities, plays, band, choir, sports, yearbook, National Honor Society, etc. I attended Dakota State University from 2007-2011 and received my BBA in Management and Marketing. Most importantly, DSU is where I met my husband, Kyle. After graduating, I brought him home and we've been in Clark ever since. Together we have 2 amazing daughters, Riley (9) and Hadley (5). I am employed with Dacotah Bank in Watertown and have been since June of 2011. I started as a teller on the front line and have since made my way up to be the Market Retail Leader.

**Travis Peterson** - My name is Travis Peterson. I live north of Crocker with my wife Krysta (Hemmington) and our three children, Alexia - seventh grade, Ashlynn - third grade and Cullen - first grade, where I run a cow/calf herd and farm with my dad, brother and uncle. I graduated from Clark High School '95. Afterwards, I attended Lake Area Tech for Ag production and I am currently on the Spring Valley Township board.

**Lacey Ortberg** - I grew up in Clark and graduated from Clark High School in 2001. After graduating, I attended NDSU for a short time and then graduated from Lake



Malory McIntire



Travis Peterson



Lacey Ortberg



James Waldner

Area Technical College in 2006 with an LPN degree. I'm married to Matt Ortberg, also a 2001 Clark High School graduate. We have four daughters, Teagan-19, Talyn-15, Tatum-13 and Trynlee-nine. Matt and I currently farm and raise pigs near Clark.

**James Waldner** - I am a German school teacher and I have a family of eight, which includes six kids (four boys and two girls).

**Why are you interested in serving on the Clark School Board and what can you bring to it?**

**Malory McIntire** - My "why" in life is to make a positive impact in whatever I do. From raising my kids, to officiating volleyball matches, to talking to people, to playing sports, to helping with vacation bible school and being on the school board. I strive to bring a positive light into everything I do. I've been on the board for 3 years and it's been an absolute eye opener for me. I had always been interested in the school board and how the school runs its day-to-day operations but when my mom was a teacher, I wasn't able to act on my interest. When my mom retired after 33 years of teaching, the opportunity arose to become a member of the Clark School Board. Since that day, I've grown to love it! Sure, there are days/meetings that are harder than others, but the positive impact we are able to make in our students' and staff members' lives and also in the community makes it worth it.

I am a person who looks at the facts of situations and tries to keep emotions out of deliberating and decision making. Working with the facts helps guide me with a clear perspective and open mind. I'm a true believer that everyone deserves to be heard and that listening to understand the other person's point of view is a necessity. As a board, it's not one person making the decisions, but all of us coming together,

hearing each other and coming up with the best solution, course of action, or decision.

**Travis Peterson** - About six years ago, I was asked if I was interested in being on the school board and while I was interested, I decided to wait and get more involved with the school as my kids got older. I think what I can bring to the school district is a new perspective from seeing my kid's education, all while remembering my own experiences from when I went there.

**Lacey Ortberg** - I am interested in serving on the Clark School board because I want to be more involved in my children's school. Being a Clark High graduate, having a daughter graduate from Clark and still having three daughters attend Clark, I am aware of past and current issues and positives within our school. I would like to be a part of the future decision making.

**James Waldner** - I am interested in the school and want to do my part for the school district. I want to make sure that funds get spent wisely.

**What are the strengths of the district that need to be maintained and the weaknesses of the district that need to be addressed?**

**Malory McIntire** - There are many strengths of our school district. My favorite strengths we have are our administrative team, our staff members and our students. Our administrators are devoted to creating the best learning environment for our students, the best teaching environment for our staff members and are focused on trying to get our district on the right path now and for years to come. Their passion for the kids, staff and our communities are admirable and I'm very thankful that the district has them to lead us. Our staff, teachers, paras, administrative assistants, cooks, janitors and substitute teachers all deserve to be praised.

Each and every person who works within our school district has the opportunity to have an abounding impact on our kids' lives. We have an amazing group of individuals that are helping raise our kids to be amazing people and I hope they realize just how important they are to all of us. Last but certainly not least, our students. Talking to them, watching them in a game, a play, a concert and at scholarship/awards night, you can see each and everyone one of them have dedicated time and energy to become the best versions of themselves. They are why we are all here and they are all so worth it.

**Travis Peterson** - One of the strengths the school district has seen is an increase in enrollment and continuing a positive learning experience will help maintain this. Another strength the school district has is community involvement. Students are actively involved in the community whether it's with senior projects or supporting organizations. One weakness the district needs to address is the turnover rate with teachers and support staff.

**Lacey Ortberg** - We are a small community with a big heart. I know our school wants nothing but the best for our students. Our staff is top notch and goes above and beyond for our students.

**James Waldner** - The school creates good relationships and is open to communication with the district. Teachers' concerns are heard. As for weaknesses, I feel some of the teachers are overwhelmed. I would like to get more resources for them, so they don't feel so overwhelmed. Also, possibly hire more staff if the budget allows.

**What are your budget priorities?**

**Malory McIntire** - My biggest priority is to stay within our means yet enhance what we need to in order to keep our schools up to

date and our kids' learning opportunities vast. With the wind tower money running out in a few years, we really need to keep track of what we are spending money on and what we need to do now versus hold off on. We have been and continue to be conservative with the money our district receives from the state and the taxpayers of this district and I plan to continue to hold true to that.

**Travis Peterson** - When it comes to the budget, I am going to be more on the conservative side. I think continuing improvements on the buildings and ensuring the students and staff have a safe and comfortable environment to work in is important, but I want to ensure the school district is wisely using taxpayer money.

**Lacey Ortberg** - No comment.

**James Waldner** - What we can spend on the classroom for students and not on sports.

**How will you address the different needs of all students?**

**Malory McIntire** - Every student is different and their needs are different when it comes to learning and even socializing. As a board member, I personally wouldn't need to address this issue unless it was escalated to the board, but I would encourage our administrative team and staff members to be open minded and to think outside of the box. "What might we do?" "What would great look like?" "What if we said yes?" Those are all great questions we can all use to get our brains to open up and think outside of our normal mindsets.

**Travis Peterson** - I would address different student needs by being present and available to listen to the needs of students, families and the community as a whole. Also, listening to the needs and concerns of the teachers and support staff in the school district and being open minded to find a solution that works best for everybody.

**Lacey Ortberg** - No comment.

**James Waldner** - No comment.

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### WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
June 6.....	90	66	0
June 7.....	93	69	0
June 8.....	95	65	0.07
June 9.....	89	64	0.07
June 10.....	84	65	0.26
June 11.....	76	53	0
June 12.....	72	52	0
2023 precipitation to date	5.5"		
2022 precipitation to date	9.15"		

## Todd Fjelland will act as Clark School Board president for the remainder of the fiscal year

With the current school board election coming up around the corner on June 20, the candidates have been approved. Candidates running include Malory McIntire, Lacey Ortberg, James Waldner and Travis Peterson.

The Clark School Board is still seeking one worker for the elections in Garden City on the election day of June 20. Anyone interested and qualified, meaning over the age of 18 and registered to vote, should reach out to Mary Nelson in the business office at the Clark Middle and High School.

It was decided at the June meeting of the Clark School Board that Todd Fjelland will be acting as the school board president for the remainder of the fiscal year, after the passing of Bob Steffen, the previous president.

As part of the department updates, it was announced that the plumbing in the Voss wing of the elementary school has been completed. Once the 2023-24 school year is in session, the bathrooms will be completed by the building trades class and ready to use. The Voss wing also expects new windows in the next week.

The Clark Middle/High School has seen some renovations with locker replacement that is scheduled to happen over the summer. There is an area where the old lockers became load bearing, so there is a plan in progress to restructure the wall to make itself sustainable and then continue to replace the lockers.

The Clark School District purchased a 2021 Ford Expedition to replace a passenger van that was unable to be replaced or ordered

for several years into the future. The expedition has the capability to transfer multiple people with second and third row seating.

Several open positions were listed at the school board meeting on Monday, including an elementary paraprofessional, sixth through eighth grade teachers at Fordham Colony, as well as several activity assistant coaches, including boys basketball, as previous assistant coach Butch Brenden has handed in his resignation.

The school district was hoping to provide physicals in house this year but due to insurance and liability purposes, that will no longer be an option. Letters will be sent out to families to inform them of the proper channels to get physicals and impact testing done before the next year's activities start.

End of year reports have kept the principals busy at both the elementary and middle/high school this month. Twenty-six children are enrolled in preschool in Clark for next year with fourteen late summer birthday students opting to wait another year.

Due to the increase in the number of students in the past couple of years, there is a new lunch schedule which will include a third lunch for students at the elementary school. There will be a ten-minute difference in time slots of all three included.

The Clark School Board will meet for their July meeting on Monday, July 10 in the Clark High School library at 6:30 p.m.



Matt Kadinger is pictured above with two of his daughters. Baylee is sitting on his lap on the left, and Maddie has her arm wrapped around the cowboy on the right.

## Kadinger daughters surprise their dad for Father's Day

"My dad is an amazing example of what a father should be. He is always there for me, ready to support and guide me. He listens to me, understands me and helps give me the confidence to face any challenge," says Lilly Estling, stepdaughter of Matt Kadinger.

Lilly adds, "His love is a source of strength, and I am grateful for the bond we share. I am lucky to have such an incredible dad in my life."

Matthew Kenneth Kadinger of Willow Lake will be celebrating this

Father's Day thanks to his three daughters: Lilly, Maddie and Baylee and one grand-daughter McKenna. Kadinger, son of Darline and Larry Kadinger, who are originally from Huron, S.D. He graduated from Willow Lake High School in 1993.

Darline worked for several nursing homes in their hometown of Huron, and Larry worked as an auctioneer and farmer, at which both Matt assisted him with. Together,

**Father's Day (continued on page 7)**