

My name is Dawn Hrabe Whalen and I am running for Board of Education Position #7. I have lived here all my life and graduated from WHS in the class of 1987. I love our small town values. I feel very fortunate that I grew up here and still call this community my home. One of the things that stands out in our community are people who go out of their way to lend a hand to someone else, and it's my belief USD 289 is an extension of those same values. For this reason, my husband Robert and I raised our two kids here, and both Ryan and Rachael also graduated from WHS. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, and I feel gratitude for the teachers, coaches, administration and community who had a hand in helping me raise them to become the great adults they are today. Giving back and giving your time to something you believe in is something I feel very strongly about and that is the reason I felt compelled to run for BOE four years ago, and why I am running another term. In the last four years I have learned a lot. We have been faced with several challenges at USD 289. Our biggest challenge has been and still is budget,

funding and the curriculum changes. We as a board have asked our teachers, students, administrators and staff to do more with less. We have worked to accomplish this without creating a negative impact on our kids and their education.

I am also on the negotiating committee and feel that we are making great strides in building a better foundation than what it was previously. We are doing this by promoting honesty and transparency. I am proud of my last four years and the accomplishments we have made as a Board, however, I don't feel like my work here is done. If you elect me on April 7, I will continue to work hard for our kids and putting THEIR NEEDS first.