



My name is Deena Gage, and I have chosen to run for Position #1 in the Board of Education Election this year.

I am a fairly new resident of Wellsville. My husband and I moved to Wellsville at the end of 2009 from Overland Park because we were ready to start a family, and neither of us wanted our children raised in the big city schools. I am originally from Macksville, Kansas. Macksville is in southwest Kansas and smaller than Wellsville as it is a 1A school. I was one of 20 in my graduating class! Having a great appreciation for the small schools I grew up in, I of course did not want the big schools for my future children. My husband grew up in Wichita and did not necessarily have a positive experience in the big schools and loves going back to Macksville, Kansas, with me to visit my family. He, too, enjoys the small town atmosphere. Thus, we landed in Wellsville and are so happy we did. We now have a son who is just starting in the Wellsville School System in the Pre-K program. It brings so much joy to my heart to hear him wake up in the mornings and ask if he can go to school.

My personal background has certainly shaped my views and appreciation for a close-knit community. I come from a farming family. I am a 2000 graduate of Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, a Minor in Primary Education, and a Concentration in Mathematics. I taught first grade in Houston, Texas, for one year following graduation and realized Houston was a little too far from my family. I moved to the Kansas City Metro in 2001 and searched for a teaching position but unfortunately was not successful in finding one due teacher cut backs in the city that year as well as a large candidate pool in the educational field. I had to make a career change and ended up in property management where I have been for 13 years now. Although I am not a certified teacher any longer, I still get the opportunity to teach people. I not only help manage multi-million dollar apartment communities, but I also train new employees to ensure they have received the proper training to perform their jobs.

I am one that dives right in to whatever situation is given to me and find the resources and tools to help make the best decisions. With an education background, I understand what teachers do, the hours they put into lesson planning, and how much they truly care about the children. I am and will always be an advocate of smaller schools and smaller communities such as our town. My son's education is extremely important to me. As a Board of Education member, I will do my best to be a part of making the best decisions for my son, your children, the teachers, USD 289, and the community. Thank you for your support! Go Eagles!