

West Valley School Board Candidates

Jeff Meredith

My name is Jeff Meredith and I am running for a 3-year term on the Board of Trustees for West Valley School. My wife Katie and I currently have two kids attending West Valley, Jack (4th) and PJ (2nd) and have two more at home, Luke (5) and Emily (3) who will start at West Valley in the next few years. Katie was a 1st grade teacher at Lakeside before we had all the kids. Both my wife and I were born and raised in Kalispell and wanted our kids to go to West Valley because of its great reputation. Thus far we have not been disappointed, West Valley is an incredible school.

However, it is facing significant changes in the near future with the departure of Superintendent Cal Ketchum and the continued enrollment growth driving the need for a new school. My focus is to ensure these changes are made in a manner that maintains the high quality of education and student experience that the parents/teachers/community of West Valley expect. I have worked at Glacier Bank for ~17 years and have extensive experience in municipal/school district financial analysis and bond funding. In addition, I was Board President of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Flathead County for several years and am a current Board Member of the Montana Board of Investments which manages State/Local government funds and TRS/PERS Pension Assets. I believe my work experience and most importantly my desire to see my kids thrive will make me a great member of the West Valley Board. I would be honored to have your vote.



Marilyn Hedstrom

My last three years on the board have been a real learning experience. "Doing what is best for the kids" is not as simple and easy as it sounds. I appreciate hearing all the various input from parents, teachers, and the community. I always try to be a good listener before making, sometimes very difficult, decisions. I have experience raising four diverse kids including a son with Downs Syndrome and three MSU graduates. I have a Biology/Chemistry teaching degree from Carroll College in Helena. I taught as a substitute for thirteen plus years in School District 5. I am office manager for our family farm, Hedstrom Dairy/Kalispell Creamery. I have four grandchildren living close to me currently attending West Valley School.

I am still young enough to enjoy a good challenge - and the next few years will surely be that with the continuing influx of students overflowing the school building, a new superintendent, new school board members and chairman.

I have tried to be a calm, stable, reasonable influence on the board and would like to continue to do that for the next three years.



Meghan Brester

My name is Meghan Brester and I am running for the West Valley School Board. I am a small business owner and own a dairy farm. I am married to Scott Brester and have two children, a 14 year old and a 12 year old. They have both attended West Valley School for several years. I am a 4th generation Montanan, I graduated from Flathead High School and attended FVCC. I am running for the school board because I want to help communicate the needs of the community and the parents to the school as well as communicate the needs of the educators to the parent and community. We all need to work together for the students!

Stefanie Hanson

My husband and I are both Flathead natives. We both graduated from Flathead High and I went on to graduate from Idaho State with a Bachelors of Science. We have two kids in the West Valley School (kindergarten and 2nd grade, respectively) so we will be part of the school for many years to come and have the best interest at heart for all the families and kids at West Valley. I help out at the school wherever I can, whether it's running x-country with the kids, contributing to teacher appreciation projects, the Fun Run, or Reindeer Lane (which I have taken over for the future years because I couldn't see it come to an end last year.)

As broker/owner of Beckman's Real Estate and current president elect on the Northwest Montana Association of Realtors MLS

board, I am very familiar with how to run board meetings, creating and following agendas, budgets, etc. With the amount of change coming to West Valley with the superintendent resigning and the new school bond, our school is at a key point of growth and change. I would like to be a part of the decision-making process for the future of West Valley School so we can continue to provide excellent education for the children, retain the wonderful teachers/staff we have, and attract more talented teachers/staff for the increasing number of students at West Valley.

I would like to listen and learn from the families, children, teachers, staff, and administrators of West Valley- what they are wanting/needing- so we can collaborate and make necessary changes that will be beneficial for all the students and families here at West Valley. My goal as a member of the school board would be to keep our children moving forward toward the best education possible.

I look forward to serving you and your family on the West Valley school board in the future!

- Stefanie Hanson

