

# THE BURLINGTON BARK

Burlington, Iowa | Nov. 1, 2023



Student ambassadors pose for a photo Monday, Oct. 16, in Aldo Leopold Intermediate School's DON'T QUIT Fitness Center following an assembly and ribbon cutting ceremony featuring Jake Steinfield (below) of the "Body by Jake" brand and chairman of the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Council.

## FITNESS CENTER OPENS AT ALDO

Jake Steinfield's resume is a lengthy one.

Not only is he the man behind the "Body by Jake" fitness brand, but he's also the creator of FitTV and ExerciseTV; a cofounder of Major League Lacrosse, a New York Times and Wall Street Journal best-selling author, and was an official torch bearer in the 2012 Summer Olympics.

He's starred in sitcom "Big Brother Jake," is credited in a number of popular TV shows, and is executive producer of award-winning film "The Grizzlies." He's trained big names in entertainment like Stephen Spielberg and Harrison Ford ahead of two "Indiana Jones" movies, and his friends include celebrities like Arnold Schwarzenegger.

And on Oct. 16, he came to Burlington.



### QUICK SIX

- 1. Nov. 3**  
Two-hour early out
- 2. Nov. 7**  
Election Day
- 3. Nov. 10-12**  
BHS presents "Annie the Musical"
- 4. Nov. 13 & 27**  
School Board meets at 6 p.m.
- 5. Nov. 16**  
End of first trimester
- 6. Nov. 22-24**  
Thanksgiving Break

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### GET INVOLVED

BHS Athletic Booster Club will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15, at The Drake. All parents/guardians of athletes are welcome. Come for one meeting or become a board member. Everyone's help and ideas are needed.

THIS IS BURLINGTON



**Jake Steinfield and Quashonn Manning high-five Monday, Oct. 16, outside Aldo Leopold Intermediate School's DON'T QUIT Fitness Center. Manning was one of six students involved in making the video that won the school the \$100,000 fitness center via the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Council's DON'T QUIT Fitness Campaign, which gifts fitness equipment to schools throughout the U.S. via public and private partnerships.**

He wasn't here to take in the scenic river views or to drive down Snake Alley. Rather he had come to visit some very important people at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School.

"The real stars are our kids," Steinfield told the group of parents, community members, teachers, district staff and administrators that had gathered in the school's library ahead of the assembly and ribbon cutting ceremony for Aldo's DON'T QUIT Fitness Center.

Aldo is among 121 schools in the state of Iowa to have applied for \$100,000 worth of fitness equipment through the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils, of which Steinfield has been chairman since 2012. Three were chosen to receive the gift.

To be considered for the FGFC's DON'T QUIT Fitness Campaign, schools had to submit a three-minute video explaining why they need a fitness center.

With some help from their then-principal, Tim Cradic, supervisor of grants and community outreach Cassie Gerst, and a decrepit stationary bike, a group of six Aldo students – Quashonn Manning, Rogan Francis, Ryder Douglas, Aubrey Mason, Zoey Kantzavelos and Ray'Meari Fredricks – made their case with facts, humor and creativity, at one point working out using logs to

emphasize the need for functional equipment.

On the day of the ribbon cutting, those students were joined by 24 of their peers acting as ambassadors at the front of the school's auditorium while the rest of their classmates watched from their seats as Steinfield talked about his own fitness journey.

"I felt such great energy and such great love when I walked through the front doors of your school today that I have to tell you a little story," Steinfield began.

He went on to tell the students that he had struggled with his weight and confidence when he was in elementary and middle school. He also had a stutter.

"When I was growing up, I got so nervous and so uptight when I had to read that when I went to speak out loud, I couldn't do it, so I got quiet and couldn't make friends," Steinfield said. "One day, my dad got me a set of weights, and those weights changed my life, because not only did those weights build my body, but they built my confidence and my self-esteem.

"When you have confidence and you feel good about yourself and you have self-esteem, when you can look in that mirror and be proud of who you are, it's amazing to see what you will be able to accomplish in your lives."



**Aldo Leopold Intermediate School students, teachers, staff and community members pose for a photo Monday, Oct. 16, in the school's auditorium during an assembly for the DON'T QUIT Fitness Center.**

Steinfeld encouraged those in attendance to change "I can't" to "I can."

"The world let's you be what you make them believe you are," Steinfield said.

He encouraged the students to go home after school and write down what they want to be when they grow up and to use exercise as a way to boost their self-esteem, self-confidence and endurance, to constantly push themselves to meet new challenges.

"This is what's going to happen," Steinfield said. "When you start to exercise, those endorphins, you're going to start feeling better about who you are."

After the assembly and ribbon cutting, the student ambassadors flooded into the fitness center, where they rotated through the various pieces of equipment, all the while being cheered on by Steinfield.

Rachel Cameron, who teaches physical education at Aldo, said the DON'T QUIT Fitness Center will allow students new opportunities and means to build healthy habits.

"The DON'T QUIT Fitness Center is the best gift and opportunity I could have ever hoped for, for our scholars," Cameron said. "The new center is going to provide them a safe environment to learn about and experience equipment they may have never been exposed to before."



**Jake Steinfield and Superintendent Robert Scott shake hands Monday, Oct. 16, inside the DON'T QUIT Fitness Center at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School.**

During P.E. class, Aldo students will create wildly important goals (WIGs) that they will work toward. Cameron said the WIGs also will teach students about accountability.

"I am confident this will motivate them to become the best versions of themselves, both physically and mentally," she said. "This educational experience will also positively impact their adult quality of life, as they will have the tools they need to continue to lead a healthy lifestyle for years to come. I'm beyond excited to get to be a part of this life-changing opportunity for our scholars and can't wait to 'Unleash the Hounds' in the DON'T QUIT Fitness Center!"



# MEET THE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, area voters will head to the polls to elect four community members to the Burlington School Board.

We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to learn more about what's happening in Iowa schools and get out the vote on Nov. 7.

Candidates are in the running for four-year terms on the board. The candidates are:

- Tammy Anderson
- Bradley Bourn
- Deborah Hatteberg (incumbent)
- Anika McVay (incumbent)
- LeRoy Schatz
- William Vance

Voters will see a seventh name on the ballot. Kathy Rashid had initially filed candidacy papers but after much consideration determined she will not be able to serve if elected due to scheduling conflicts.

"Our public schools deserve leadership that is present and engaged," Rashid said. "I do not want to take the opportunity for someone else to do the job better than I could now."

BCSD asked each of the six candidates vying for school board to fill out a questionnaire to help voters get to know them. Here are their complete, unedited responses in alphabetical order by last name:



TAMMY ANDERSON

**What motivates you to want to become a board member?**

I have 3 children in the district. A 3rd grader at Blackhawk, a 7th grader at Edward Stone and a Junior at Burlington High School. I am seeking a position on the school board so I can play a more active role in my children's education, be a part of the decision-making

process and make sure that our children have a good learning environment and the right tools to reach their potential.

**What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member? What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?**

I have had a child in the school district since 2011 and have been involved from helping in the classroom, attending PTO Meetings, class field trips, serving on the School Advisory Committee and the Parent Advisory Council for Edward Stone. I have a willingness to learn, to work with the district and care about the education of our students.

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

I have lived in the Burlington School District all my life.

**In what school or district activities have you been involved?**

I have been on the PTO Board and attended meetings at Black Hawk in the past. I am on The School Advisory Committee (SIAC)

and most recently am serving on the Parent Advisory Council at Edward Stone Middle School.

**What do you see as the current challenges facing public education in our state? In our country?**

1. Shortage of teachers and long-term subs
2. Keeping kids in school
3. Behavioral issues

**What are three strengths of which our district can be proud? Why do you see these as strengths?**

1. Good teachers that go above and beyond for our children.
2. Career Technical Program (CTE) - the High School offers a wide range of electives and several of our teachers have the qualifications to teach college classes right on campus. This gives our children a jump start on college without the cost.
3. We have hired more teachers to do interventions.

All these things go a long way into reaching each student and giving them the best learning environment, offers more class options at the High School level to explore future opportunities and gives us the chance to reach children that are struggling with their day-to-day work.

**If elected, what would you hope would be key accomplishments of the board during our years of service?**

1. To get more teachers back in our district.
2. To make major strides in behavioral issues.
3. See more school and community interactions.

**How can our district best ensure students are prepared for success in**



## school and life?

1. Make sure kids attend school each day.
2. Interventionists continue to see where kids are struggling and working on those subjects by giving extra guidance and continue finding ways to work with kids that are understandable to them.
3. Good communication between parents, teachers, staff and students.

## What do you believe are the most important characteristics of an effective school board member?

Listening, Communication, Being Transparent, Consistency and involvement in different aspects of the school district. Involvement would be considered as attending events other than my own children's.

Showing support for staff by visiting classrooms and programs during the day if work allows. I must be active as a board member to make sure my decisions I make are in the best interest of our students and staff.

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**BRADLEY BOURN**

## What motivates you to want to become a board member?

To ensure our kids are equipped to succeed in the future, specifically in the areas of AI (Artificial Intelligence, Crypto Currencies and Blockchain Quantum Computing). To recruit the brightest and best teachers out there. To make BCSO the preferred choice of parents

over the other four school districts within Des Moines County. To ensure the taxpayer's monies are used in as efficient and effective manner possible.

## What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member? What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?

My career as an Army leader, a renewable fuels entrepreneur, a State Senate Candidate and my 13 years living abroad with five of those years where my daughter was attending a German school. I hold a bachelor's degree in political science from Western Illinois University. Also, I was an Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Wisconsin for two years.

My fearlessness to call it as I see it (The Army called it "candor") and my ability to articulate viewpoints clearly and concisely no matter how complex. I possibly have a more Worldly perspective based on my life's experiences.

## How long have you lived in the school district?

Class of '83, left for the Army, returned to Burlington when I retired in 2009, moved back to Germany 2013, returned to Burlington last Spring.

## In what school or district activities have you been involved?

At this time, none.

## What do you see as the current challenges facing public education in our state? In our country?

We are outpaced by hostile adversaries in the STEM curriculums. Additionally emerging technologies like Crypto Currencies and other Blockchain computing are being used around the world to great effect while the U.S. is lagging way behind. Lack of adoption is due to a lack of regulation and an honest discussion and even a lack of knowledge. Most have no idea that the Federal Reserve Bank has started it's CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) called FEDNOW. And AI is taking the World by storm with major technological innovators like Elon Musk predicting that AI could mean the destruction of the Human Race. He's developing his "NeuroLink" to give Mankind a fighting chance against AI. We must prepare our students for this inevitable future.

## What are three strengths of which our district can be proud? Why do you see these as strengths?

I see BCSO policy of parental consent on the "identity issues" to be a strength. The long-standing program working with SCC where students can gain college credits while still in high school. Sports and Vocational programs are also strengths.

## If elected, what would you hope would be key accomplishments of the board during your years of service?

That the education each student receives is based on their individual aptitudes. For instance, one student has the aptitude of a fish, and another has a squirrel's - we fail the fish for not being able to climb a tree and vice versa. And just as bad is if we generalize the education so much that neither the fish nor squirrel gain anything. I would also hope that stronger connections and relationships are built between the Parents and Teachers.

## How can our district best ensure students are prepared for success in school and life?

Teach real history, to learn the real lessons and learn from past mistakes. Bolster foreign language education for technology and changes in the international economy means we are no longer isolated. And as I stated before we must prepare students in the areas of AI (Artificial Intelligence) Crypto Currency and Blockchain Quantum Computing. The Federal Reserve Bank has already introduced it CBDC (Central Bank Digital Currency) called FEDNOW, and the rest of the World are leaps and bounds ahead of the U.S. The U.S. is even lagging behind Sub-Sahara Africa with the work of a Blockchain company named Stellar and their native token (crypto currency) XLM giving financial inclusion to each person even though there are no banks or other infrastructure...

## What do you believe are the most important characteristics of an effective school board member?

An effective school board member holds the school administration accountable in a reasonable manner and ensures the taxpayer's resources are used in as efficient manner as possible.

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**DEBORAH HATTEBERG**

## What motivates you to want to become a board member?

My whole life has been dedicated to education. I care about children and believe that the greatest gift we can give them is an education and skills to earn a living. I want to give back to a district



and community that has supported me for so many years. As a board member, I have witnessed our district face many challenges and implement changes that positively impact our students. It is a continual challenge to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs for every student, but that is my goal. I would like to continue this work to contribute to the success of our students and the future citizens of this community.

**What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member? What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?**

My educational experiences should provide insight into the challenges that staff face on a daily basis and bring a unique perspective to the school board. Communication is a necessary tool for success and I value ideas and concerns from students, staff, parents, and community members. My belief is that the team approach is best and difficult situations can be minimized by respectfully working together to reach a common goal or solve a problem.

I am active in the community as a member and past board member of the Kiwanis Club, Bel Canto Chorale, and Messiah Lutheran Church. I currently serve as secretary of the Messiah Preschool board.

I understand how educational legislation can impact this district and the responsibility to efficiently utilize public funds and provide a quality education for our students. As a current board member, I am aware of the past history of the district, the challenges that continue to have an effect on the district, and the vision for the future.

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

I have lived in Burlington for over forty years.

**In what school or district activities have you been involved?**

I taught for 33 years in the Burlington School District. Since my retirement, I continued to direct the Shoquoquon Children's Choir for many years, mentored new teachers, accompanied choirs, volunteered in classrooms, and worked as a substitute teacher. It has been my honor to serve on the school board for the last eight years.

**What do you see as the current challenges facing public education in our state? In our country?**

Retaining and recruiting staff is a major concern throughout the nation. The effects of COVID on learning loss, inadequate social skills, student behavior, and student/staff mental health continue to be a factor. Our district is fortunate to have many dedicated staff at all levels, but each year we have open positions that are not filled.

Providing safe working and learning environments so that all students and staff feel safe and supported has become increasingly important. Schools should continue to evaluate security measures, visitor requirements, and provide training for emergencies. Districts must strive for consistent building plans and the consistent implementation of those plans district-wide to address acts of bullying, violence, and harassment. Improving school climate must be a constant goal.

Recent legislation has had a profound and lasting effect on finances and limitation of services for public schools. The Iowa School Voucher Bill will spend millions of taxpayer dollars to fund students to attend private schools and will increase every year. State funding is based on enrollment numbers. Decreased property taxes and

increased spending for private schools equals fewer dollars for public schools.

Senate File 496 limits the ability to utilize surveys to identify and proactively address students at risk, student wellness/mental health, and academic performance. The Iowa Youth Services survey was used by many schools to collect statewide data for grants and to define needs for each school, but that is no longer an option. Although trained on the definition of new laws, teachers must be very careful as they conduct class meetings, adapt curriculum, and even ask questions on a daily basis. Many tried and true activities in classrooms will not happen this year.

**What are three strengths of which our district can be proud? Why do you see these as strengths?**

The Burlington Community School District is a school of opportunity. We offer 12 career and technical education pathways for our high school students and expand each year with public safety courses as the latest addition. Students can participate in 25 AP and college credit classes in cooperation with SCC on site at no cost to students. Unique extracurricular activities include a shared swimming program, orchestra, and new sports such as girl's wrestling and E sports. STEM classes are in the specials rotation at the elementary level to build a solid foundation for advanced classes in middle and high school.

Our facilities are excellent. I am especially excited about the \$35 million dollar renovation at BHS that will enhance our programs and offer a safe, healthy, and motivational environment for our students. This major project is funded by federal COVID relief funds and revenue from the penny sales tax, not property tax. Bracewell Stadium is a gem and was completed as a partnership between the district and community members of the Purple and Gray Foundation.

We host several unique opportunities for students not offered in surrounding districts. Corse Early Childhood Center offers childcare along with three and four year old preschool programming. It also serves as a lab site for the SCC Early Childhood education program. VIBE is Southeast Iowa's only virtual learning program that combines on line learning with in person experiences for those students that don't function as well in a traditional setting. The Pieces After-School Program has won many awards for excellence. Club M, the only certified student mentoring program in the state of Iowa, matches high school mentors with K-4 mentees to provide enriching experiences.

**If elected, what would you hope would be key accomplishments of the board during your years of service?**

1. Continue to address academic, social, and emotional barriers for our students so that they can reach their highest potential
2. Continue to offer excellent educational opportunities while expanding and modernizing courses.
3. Strive to fill all staff positions and create a supportive work/learning environment
4. Maintain current facilities and improve building security in the district
5. Continue to efficiently utilize public funds, explore grant opportunities, and promote partnerships with other educational facilities, local businesses and community groups
6. Improve communication with all stakeholders and increase promoting BCSD successes

**How can our district best ensure students are prepared for success in school and life?**

Amazing and dedicated staff are an asset to promoting success. Early interventions can address learning difficulties and provide support

to overcome them. Regular attendance is a crucial life skill for success. Parents and schools must communicate often and work together to guide our students. Community partnerships can offer invaluable resources. Encouraging participation in school activities promotes pride for a job well done and fosters a sense of belonging. Understanding and meeting clear expectations prepares students for a work place environment. We must continue to be diligent to acknowledge each student as an individual, but teach them the skills to work with others in a productive way.

**What do you believe are the most important characteristics of an effective school board member? Of an effective school board member?**

I believe that an effective board member must care about children and be committed to providing quality education for them to succeed in their chosen paths. Board members need to listen to all stake holders that share ideas and concerns, possess good communication skills, ask questions, and be informed with correct data when making decisions.

All board members should be able to work as a team and resolve different points of view for a common goal. They must address financial and educational needs that efficiently utilize public funds and district resources. Attending school events and acting as a positive advocate for the Burlington Community School District shows support and commitment to our mission.

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ANIKA McVAY

**What motivates you to want to become a board member?**

I want to serve and give back to my community.

**What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member? What specific strengths would you bring to the**

**board table?**

I have been a board member for 4 years now. I have been actively involved with making decisions and already seen the inside workings for our school district. I want to continue to bring a voice for our staff, parents and students to the board table. I want our community to know that I am still willing to help, and listen to their concerns even when I can not comment.

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

My entire life.

**In what school or district activities have you been involved?**

I went to Burlington District all my schooling years and graduated from BHS in 2002.

I was PTO parent one year for Grimes, then moved into the Black Hawk district where I was PTO board and in charge of fundraising. I was also room mom for 7 years before becoming a board director.

While being a board director I have visited every school numerous times each year. I attended special activities and helped with them during the school day. For example, reading to classes at Sunnyside,

PTO Book Fair, Concession stand helper for every home football game, attended every sporting event at least once a year that my own children were not involved in, I have helped with band events, been a part of musical try outs and many more.

As a board director, I want to be involved as much as possible, to show our wonderful volunteers and staff I am here for you. I want to help make their job easier if I can. Plus I get to see the wonderful things our students are learning. Watch our students grow and succeed because of our amazing staff and the students hard work.

**What do you see as the current challenges facing public education in our state? In our country?**

We always have the chance of our Government telling us what we can and can't do, however we can take that information and make our schools feel little to no impact by looking at the situation and seeing where we can adjust.

We have challenges we face everyday, from social emotional or social economics, however we have overcome them on a daily basis by evaluating the situation and reacting quickly. Giving support to our students and staff is most important to me.

**What are three strengths of which our district can be proud? Why do you see these as strengths?**

We have so many to list, however my top three would be classes we have to offer. Where else can you go to high school, get on the right career path, and take classes at college level all at the same time. Our class offerings are stand-out-want to be a police officer or fire fighter-we have classes for that, want to be a chef-we have classes for that, want to be an iron worker-we have classes for that.

Burlington has networking opportunities with real life experiences. Our building classes have made sheds and garages. Our students are going out into the real world with experiences as such an early age, that makes them stand out on applications and in interviews.

Finally our environment- we are a supportive friendly environment with consequences if needed. We have strived to build a Grayhound family like environment, that all of our students and staff can feel safe in while being successful.

**If elected, what would you hope would be key accomplishments of the board during your years of service?**

Safe learning environment maintained for all, and communication with all stakeholders.

**How can our district best ensure students are prepared for success in school and life?**

Teach them life skills, show them how to cook, balance a check book-or debit card account, make the skills we teach them something they need to be successful. We need to support them in their decision making. Listen to our students.

**What do you believe are the most important characteristics of an effective school board member? Of an effective school board member?**

Board Director-be a good listener, a good researcher, and have an open mind. To be an effective board in general we need to respect each other and realize it's okay to disagree but find a solution that is best for our students and staff.



**LEROY SHATZ**

**What motivates you to want to become a board member?**

I spent 33 years working with diverse clients (both adult learners and younger students) with disabilities as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor at the State of Iowa Burlington office. As a vocational counselor, I worked closely with the school systems

in Burlington, Ft. Madison, Keokuk, Mediapolis, and Wapello. I also worked regularly with Great Prairie AEA, Southeastern Community College officials, the Hope Haven Area Development Center, the Workforce Center, and sometimes also with local business leaders (for job development). After all these years, I still feel a commitment to support students and teachers, and I think my background in vocational counseling could be an asset in helping to develop vocational goals for students (for example) and in ensuring that teachers have access to institutional resources to support their work.

**What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member? What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?**

See answer #1.

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

See answer #1.

**In what school district activities have you been involved?**

As a counselor, I served on an ongoing, multi-year, state-level committee that involved teachers, AEA personnel, and other Vocational Rehabilitation counselors, the purpose of which was to ensure that state legislators received input from local districts.

**What do you see as the current challenges facing public education in our state? In our country?**

Some of the biggest challenges we face are budgetary. Even though at this time, the budget is in good shape, within a few years, Burlington city officials have indicated that we will likely be nearing a crisis. This will undoubtedly impact school funding. School retention is a major issue in Burlington as there has been a large outflow of students into surrounding communities. I address some ways that we can strengthen our schools and aid in student retention in my answer to question #7.

**What are three strengths of which our district can be proud? Why do you see these as strengths?**

The biggest strength of our district is undoubtedly the committed teachers and AEA staff that are the backbone of our schools. I know from personal experience how much they sacrifice to maintain high standards, nurture a welcoming school climate, and close the achievement gap.

Alongside our educators and staff, parents and the broader community have consistently supported school financial needs, including new school facilities and academic programs.

**If elected, what would you hope would be key accomplishments of the board during your four years of service?**

Firstly, I would also push to ensure that all students have access to appropriate technology. It's clear that many of our children are more technologically advanced than previous generations. As a board member, I would work to ensure that teachers have the training they need to teach and use new technologies and that students who wish to pursue studies in technology and design fields will have access to the resources they need to learn in new, innovative, and safe ways so that our district can keep up with the learning demands of the 21st century.

Additionally, it's important to note that students living at or below the poverty level have the highest dropout rates. This problem is compounded by the fact that many of these students do not get enough food or sleep, which negatively affects their ability to learn. According to the 2022 US Census, Burlington has an 18% poverty rate, meaning that many students face added burdens. We need to ensure that Title 1 funding is not cut so that disadvantaged students do not fall through the cracks.

**How can our district best ensure students are prepared for success in school and life?**

The Burlington school system has a solid core curriculum, and dedicated teachers and parent volunteers. We need to continue to support our teachers and grow our learning opportunities by investing in technological programs and language studies.

**What do you believe are the most important characteristics of an effective board member?**

A school board member represents the community's voice in public education. Through a knowledge of our community's resources and needs, school board members provide citizen governance to set the standard for achievement in the school district. The best school board members will not take a "top down" decision-making approach. Rather, decisions should be reached only after extensive feedback from all stakeholders—including parents, teachers, and students themselves.

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**WILLIAM VANCE**

**What motivates you to want to become a board member?**

I am the father of two students in the BCSD, a third grader and a fifth grader. I have a personal interest in working for my children to get the best education possible. I also have a general interest as a Burlington resident in advocating for all students in the BCSD to get an education that prepares them

to both understand the world and to succeed in the world. Well educated citizens are a public good that we should all be pushing for.

**What skills or experiences qualify you to serve as a school board member? What specific strengths would you bring to the board table?**

I served in the US military for about six years. My service showed me the value of teamwork. It also taught me a little bit about how to get things done within an organization's structure and rules. It also provided me with the means to finish my Bachelor's degree (BS in Law Enforcement / Justice Administration from Western Illinois University) and get my Master's degree (MA in Global Security from Arizona State University). I think my past has given me an appreciation of the value of education along with some unique life experiences in the world.

**How long have you lived in the school district?**

I have lived in Burlington since I got out of the military in 2011. Burlington



is where my wife and I bought our first home together and it is where our children were born (well, the hospital in West Burlington, but you know...). Burlington has become where we want to live and raise our children.

**In what school or district activities have you been involved?**

I have taken my children to Open House Night at the beginning of each school year. I have taken both of my children to scout meetings at the schools. I have attended my son's orchestra concerts. I have gone with my family to the PTO Fun Nights. I have also participated in parent teacher conferences for my children.

**What do you see as the current challenges facing public education in our state? In our country?**

The voucher system allowing public tax dollars to be spent to send children to private schools creates challenges. It seems to be a symptom of the trend of some people taking pride in thinking that they are smarter than all subject matter experts.

**What are three strengths of which our district can be proud? Why do you see these as strengths?**

I see the staff of the BCSD as a strength to be proud of. These professionals care about their work and the students we entrust in their care. I think the Parent Square App is a strength, since it is a good way for the schools to communicate with student families. The variety of extracurricular activities the district offers is a strength. The variety appeals to lots of students, and it is great that orchestra is offered to students as young as fourth grade.

**If elected, what would you hope would be key accomplishments of the board during your years of service?**

I hope to see improvements made to the overall security of the schools. School staff and students need to feel safe in order to focus on education. I would also like to encourage more parent/guardian participation in the education process.

**How can our district best ensure students are prepared for success in school and life?**

I believe that a well rounded education requires learning about the academic subjects that form a foundational understanding of our world. The BCSD should also make an effort to get students and families to understand that learning is a lifetime pursuit.

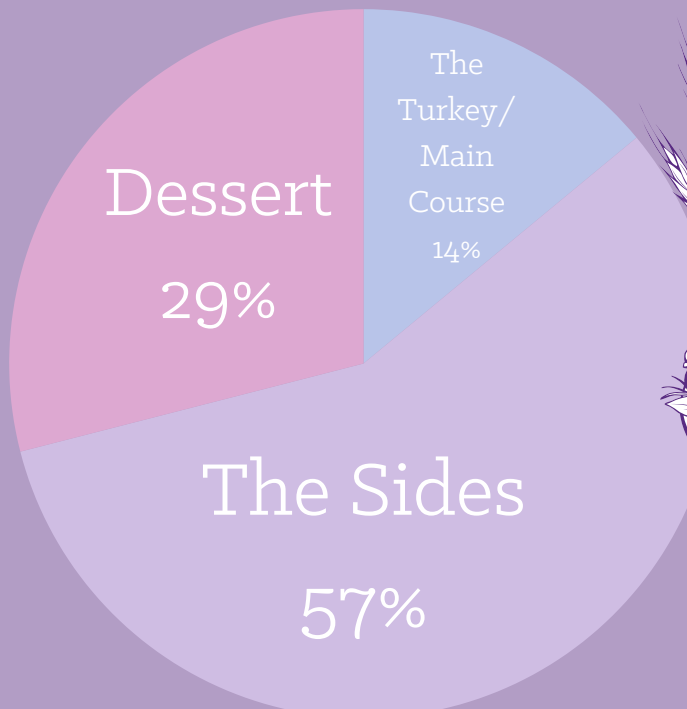
The world is not going to stop changing. Students should learn about the world, but also about the process of learning. They will need to be ready to participate in a consistently changing world.

**What do you believe are the most important characteristics of an effective school board member? Of an effective school board member?**

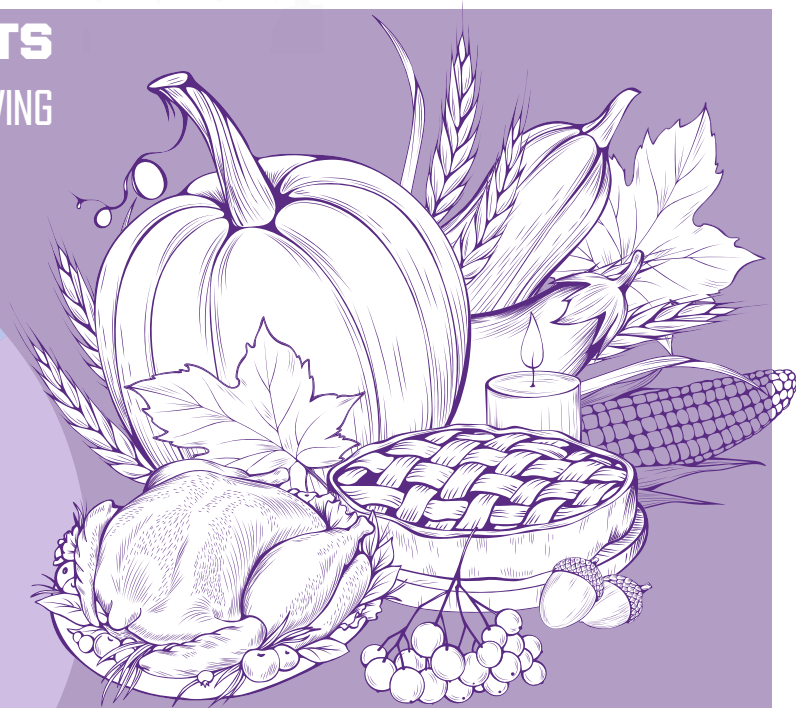
The role of a school board member is to ethically and conscientiously participate in the leadership and administration necessary to help conduct the crucial business of education. Their role is also to be aware of conditions in schools (both by visiting the schools and by listening to teachers / other staff) in order to lead and enable education from an informed perspective. Characteristics necessary for this role include active listening, the ability to communicate with different people, and a strong desire to make things better.

## INSTAGRAM POLL RESULTS

### WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT THANKSGIVING MEALS?



TOTAL VOTES: 111



### CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

- [bclds.org](http://bclds.org)
- @BurlingtonCommunitySchoolDistrict
- @BCSDGrayhounds
- @BCSDGrayhounds



Burlington High School students Will Woodard, Shannan Skeens, Rayleigh White, Sophie To, Aeron Roth, Lily Newell, Zyana Bradford, Isha Salokhe, Macklyn Palmer, Ross Tuttle, and Kingsley Miller pose for a photo alongside Extended Learning Program teachers Katie Salisbury and Aron Kehoe, and Burlington School Board member Bryan Bross Wednesday, Oct. 11 after returning from Davenport, where they competed in the Junior Achievers Stock Market Challenge at St. Ambrose University.

# BHS STUDENTS COMPETE IN STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE

DAVENPORT — The atmosphere within St. Ambrose University’s Rogalski Center Ballroom pulsed with excitement and determination Oct. 11 as students flagged down floor traders, eager to sell off and buy up stocks amid rapidly fluctuating market trends.

A total of 31 teams from Iowa high schools, including three from Burlington, were facing off in the Junior Achievers Stock Market Challenge, the goal being to get the highest return on investment over a 60-day period.

The challenge didn’t actually span 60 days. Rather each trading day was one minute, with each day bringing news through hot tips and news releases from the financial markets, challenging teams to evaluate trends and compete for the attention of floor traders to make trades, buy and sell shares.

With each minute that ticked by, the Burlington High School students grew bolder.

“Floor trader!” BHS junior Aeron Roth called out as she pointed at a nearby floor trader, his role made known by the opaque green visor atop his head, following the drop of a hot tip.

It was BHS’s first time competing in such a challenge, and despite having had little practice, they were naturals, their ambitions fueled by soda, coffee and the adrenaline of the trading floor.

Prior to the challenge, they got a crash course in the stock exchange from Bryan Bross, a former Junior Achiever who now serves on the

Burlington School Board and accompanied them on the trip, along with Extended Learning Program teachers Aron Kehoe and Katie Salisbury.

Once at St. Ambrose, students also heard from an investment panel made up of three industry professionals from the Quad Cities area: senior portfolio advisor Catherine Dittmer, CFP, CSRIC, CFP; financial advisor Blake Shaeffer; and Steve VanDerSchaaf, senior vice president of Wealth Management and branch manager at Raymond James.

The three told the students about what goes into working in finance, the lifestyle it affords, and how to assess risk.

“A great example of how to think about risk is basically, if you’re looking at a stock, think about what is everything that could possibly go wrong,” Dittmer said. “Is it international stock? Could there be geopolitical risk? Could there be risk of that currency falling vs. the U.S. dollar? If it’s a domestic stock, then you have other risks, like reputation risk.”

Dittmer pointed to the fallout faced by General Motors following the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995. The person who carried out the bombing did so in a GMC truck. While the bombing had nothing to do with the product itself, the company, or how the company was run, the mere fact that the guilty party drove a GMC caused GM’s stock to take a significant hit.

“There can be risks that come completely out of left field, and that is something that you as an investment manager have to try to quantify and measure,” Dittmer said.



## STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE RESULTS

### **BHS Team 1 (15th place)**

Kingsley Miller  
Lily Newell  
Shannan Skeens

### **BHS Team 2 (19th place)**

Aeron Roth  
Isha Salokhe  
Sophie To  
Rayleigh White

### **BHS Team 3 (18th place)**

Zyana Bradford  
Macklyn Palmer  
Ross Tuttle  
Will Woodard

**Burlington High School students Kingsley Miller, Lily Newell and Shannan Skeens discuss strategy Wednesday, Oct. 11, during the Junior Achievers Stock Market Challenge at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.**

Dittmer also said her career allowed her to go from growing up in a trailer park with plywood flooring to living “extremely comfortably with a very nice home and a very nice car” in the span of just 10 years since graduating college.

“This is one of the very few professions that you can go from being broke to living very comfortably in such a short amount of time with only a four-year degree,” Dittmer said.

She went on to encourage the young women in attendance to consider a similar career track, noting that only 14% of financial advisors are women, giving them a competitive edge in a field that has traditionally been an “old boys club” at a time when women are becoming more wealthy.

“There is a huge opportunity because people like to work with people who look like them,” she said.

Soon after the panel discussion closed, the trading bell rang out and it was all hands on deck as the teams watched stock prices rise and fall and did their best to predict what the market would bring next.

Of the 31 teams, the BHS teams ranked 15th, 18th and 19th. They’re eager to compete again. BHS senior Zyana Bradford, who plans to attend Drake University next year and whose team began the challenge with a more cautious approach, said next time, she plans to take bigger risks in hopes of bigger gains.

She and her classmates said they would like to host a similar event



**Burlington High School senior Zyana Bradford and her team listen to advice from Bryan Bross Wednesday, Oct. 11, ahead of the trading bell at the Junior Achievers Stock Market Challenge at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.**

for area schools at BHS in the future.

The Junior Achievers’ next competition will be in April when they head to Muscatine for the JA Titan Competition, a simulation-based program where students will compete as business CEOs in the mobile phone industry.

The competition promotes work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

# BCSD, CITY PARTNER TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL BUS SERVICES

The city of Burlington and the Burlington Community School District are partnering to provide free city busing for Burlington students.

Per a pilot program approved Oct. 9 by the Burlington School Board that went into effect Oct. 30, BCSD students now are able to access the Burlington Urban Services (BUS) free of charge during BUS's regular days and hours of operation so long as they present their current school ID.

All Burlington students will receive a new ID this fall. Students may use last year's ID until they receive their new one.

This program will supplement, not replace, the district's existing transportation department to further meet the needs of and remove barriers for our students.

Last year alone, Burlington students took more than 3,200 rides on city buses.

"We're so excited the city was willing to partner with us on this," said BCSD Superintendent Rob Scott. "We're always looking for ways to provide opportunities for our students while meeting them where they're at."

This program comes on the heels of the district's enrollment in the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service's Community Eligibility Program (CEP), through which BCSD provides free breakfast and lunch to all enrolled K-12 students regardless of household income.

All students are eligible to participate in the BUS program, which currently is set to expire June 30, 2024, but may be renewed on an annual basis.

## MORE THAN 130 COMPETE IN 1ST ANNUAL CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

Thanks to all who participated in and promoted the Burlington Community School District's first-ever district-wide creative writing contest.

More than 130 stories — including more than 90 from Aldo Leopold Intermediate School alone — were entered for a chance to win prizes and be published in a [digital book of scary stories](#), and Burlington High School's art club members did a fantastic job providing the artwork to accompany stories at all grade levels.

K-4 winners are:

- Emersyn Baker, "The Haunted Mansion," Honorable Mention
- Natalie Hicke, "The Evil Doll," 3rd Place
- Jaxston Waller, "The 2 Days of the Doll," 2nd Place
- Milo Osbourne, "The Fire Alarm," 1st Place

5-6 winners are:

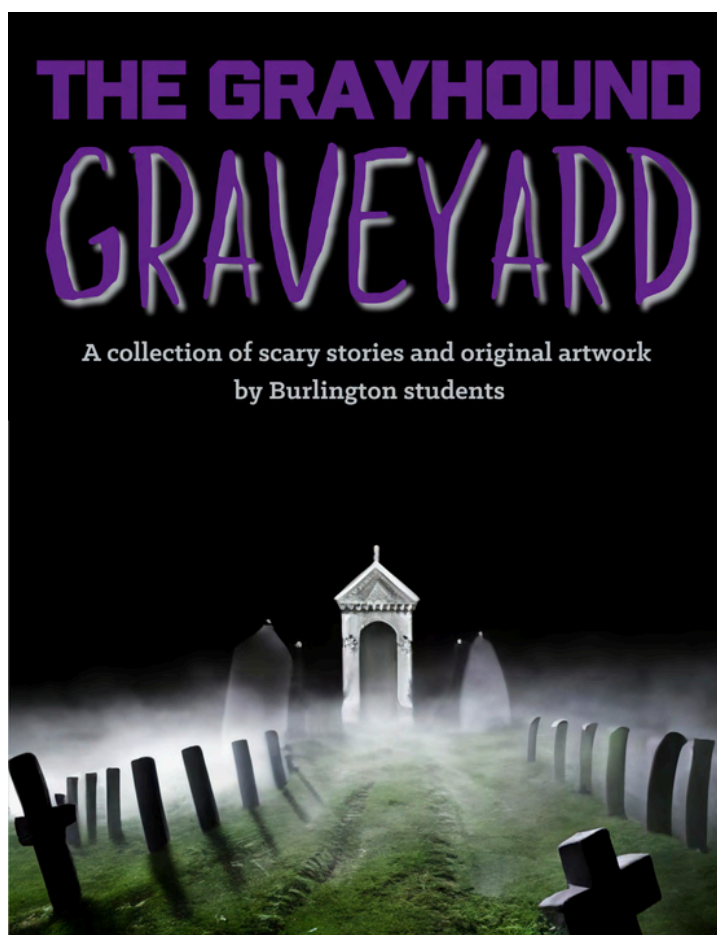
- Mayliana Fox, "Flowers Don't Growl," Honorable Mention
- Liam Wiseman, "Oija Board," Honorable Mention
- Aila Plein, "Regret," Honorable Mention
- Julie Grieves, "It's Not Just a Story," 3rd Place
- Lydia Barnes, "The Colored Pencils," 2nd Place
- Gavin Augsburg, "The Lady in Blue," 1st Place

7-8 winners are:

- Karley Waller, "The Dead Can Speak," 3rd Place
- Hannah Stott, "A Halloween of Horror," 2nd Place
- Miriam Petersen, "The Cave," 1st Place

9-12 winners are:

- Ell Riddle, "That's Not My Dog," 3rd Place
- Victoria Locke-Smith, "Shadowed Hunger," 2nd Place
- Riley Villont, "Angel with the Devil's Mind," 1st Place



A collection of scary stories and original artwork  
by Burlington students

**The Grayhound Graveyard features 16 scary stories along with artwork by Burlington students and is available in digital form at [bcstds.org](https://bcstds.org).**

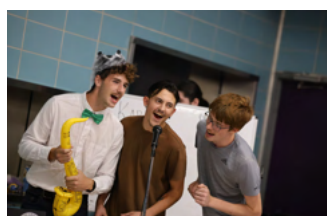
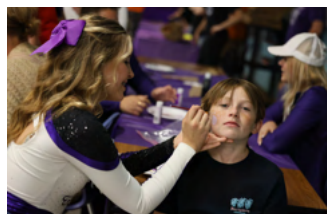
# Homecoming 2023



Jack Hanks and LaRiyah Bobbit were crowned Burlington High School's 2023 Homecoming king and queen on Oct. 5 and 6. Others on the Homecoming Court were Caden Schisel, Rafe Butherus, Dimitri Donald, William Klatt, Xzavion Baker, Madison Taeger, Sofia Ball, Lauren McDowell, Alana Yaeger and Gabrielle Tolliver.

The week of school pride began with Powder Puff and Ruff n' Tuff on Oct. 1, followed by a series of dress-up days, a parade, carnival and pep assembly complete with cheer performances by the football players and a cupcake eating contest that was equal parts messy and entertaining.

The Grayhounds saw back-to-back Homecoming victories over Clinton at Bracewell, with varsity coming out ahead 28-21 and the freshman/sophomore team 17-13.



# BURLINGTON ACTIVITIES DEPT.

To view the Activities schedule [click here!](#)

## THE RECAP





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## BURLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Nov. 3 - 2-hour early out
- Nov. 7 - Election Day
- Nov. 13 - School Board meets at 6 p.m.
- Nov. 16 - End of first trimester
- Nov. 17 - No school
- Nov. 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 17 - School Board meets at 6 p.m.

## BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

- Nov. 10 & 11 - BHS presents "Annie the Musical" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School
- Nov. 12 - BHS presents "Annie the Musical" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Aldo Leopold Intermediate School

## EDWARD STONE MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Nov. 2 - Fall Band Concert at 7 p.m. in the auditorium
- Nov. 14 - Picture Retake Day

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS & CORSE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

- Nov. 6 - Grimes PTO meets at 6 p.m.
- Nov. 7 - Black Hawk PTO meets at 5 p.m.
- Nov. 14 - Sunnyside PTO meets at 4:15 p.m.
- Nov. 14 & 16 - Corse Parent-Teacher Conferences from 4:30 to 7 p.m.
- Nov. 21 - Corse Picture Retake Day
- Nov. 28 - Black Hawk Picture Retake Day
- Nov. 29 - North Hill Picture Retake Day

**BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL  
PRESENTS**



**7 p.m. Nov. 10 & 11  
3 p.m. Nov. 12**

**@ Aldo Leopold Intermediate School**

**\$5 for students | \$10 for adults**

## AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

[Click here to view the PiECES Calendar and activities!](#)

### Saturdays with PiECES

- Starr's Cave with PiECES: Nov. 4 from noon to 3 p.m.
- Saturday Movie: Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Capitol Theater
- Brick Masters: Nov. 4 & 18 and 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Burlington Public Library

### NO PiECES

Nov. 3

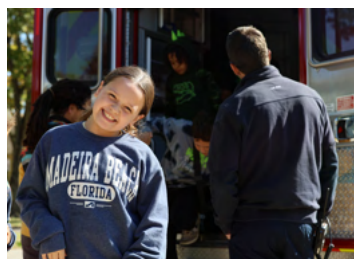
**CONNECT WITH US!**



@BurlingtonCommunitySchoolDistrict

@bcsgreyhounds

# AT BCSD, WE ARE RAISING GRAYHOUNDS!



## BURLINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

It is the policy of the Burlington Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Equity Coordinators at the District Administrative Office, 1429 West Avenue, Burlington, IA 52601; (319) 753-6791.

For Educational Programs: Cory Johnson, Director of Curriculum, [cory.johnson@bcstds.org](mailto:cory.johnson@bcstds.org)

For Employment: Laci Johnson, Director of Human Resources, [laci.johnson@bcstds.org](mailto:laci.johnson@bcstds.org)