



Gregg Gustafson, At-Large Candidate for Pella School Board

Gregg Gustafson is the lumber plant manager at Pella Corporation. Born and raised in Corydon, Iowa, and a graduate of Central College, Gustafson also has a master's in business administration from Drake University. He and his wife, a first grade teacher in Pleasantville, have a high school sophomore, a seventh grader, and a third grader in the Pella Public Schools.

Gregg has had some administration experience in the school system as part of the School Board Advisory Committee, and was part of the decision-making process by which the grades in schools were realigned with the completion of Madison Elementary and the sale of Webster. That committee work gave him the opportunity to work also with the school administrators, to whom he gives high praise. "They have always been at these meetings and are very open to talking through issues."

He believes one of the best assets of the Pella system is the personnel - the teachers and administrators. "They do a wonderful job, and they are

very good at bringing in good ones when others retire. I've been impressed with the quality of the teachers my children have had."

Gustafson is running for a position on the school board because he "wants to help build on all the good things that the schools are doing." He very much favors providing opportunities for all students, but understands that will continue to be a challenge because of time and resources available.

"The challenge becomes how do we divide our resources between maintaining quality staff and continuing to offer the best and most opportunities for all the students. We want to replace retiring staff with quality educators. There are decisions to be made such as what languages we offer. How do we provide programs with the same amount of dollars available? What do we continue to deliver and what do we cut?" he asked, noting that "Our curriculum and graduation requirements change with the changing requirements of the state universities, and we are now asking fourteen-year-olds to plan their entire high school careers to make sure they get it all in."

In his spare time, Gustafson likes to be involved in family activities and his kids' sports, and has coached youth basketball and football. He reads autobiographies, currently that of Jim Nantz, the sportscaster, the story of his relationship with his father as he developed Alzheimer's. Gregg does not currently attend School Board meetings.

Asked why we should vote for him, he said "I'm a good listener. I'm an objective thinker and can weigh various sides of issues to reach a decision. I am passionate about kids, and providing them with the best possible opportunities."

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