LANSING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD CANDIDATE SUMMARY – 2026
(Please return with your petition no later than 5:00pm, Monday, April 20th)
NAME: Andrew Gross

ADDRESS: 150 Breed Road, Locke, NY 13092

EDUCATION: Gettysburg College, BA in Health & Exercise Science, Concentration in Secondary Physical Education

EMPLOYER: Finger Lakes Xtreme Fitness, LLC. Self-employed

CHILDREN (Names and Grades): Palmer (2nd), Scarlett (3rd), Ellianna (6th), Channing (8th), Thatcher (10th), Jakob (11th), Benton (12th), Noah (12th), Lawson (Graduate 2025),
Hunter (Graduate 2022)

STRENGTH(S) OF THE DISTRICT AS YOU SEE THEM:

I truly believe one of the greatest strengths of the Lansing Central School District is its commitment to excellence across the board. I've seen firsthand the impact of our high-quality educators. They care deeply about our students and are fully invested in their success, both inside and outside the classroom. That dedication creates an environment where students feel challenged, supported, and inspired every day. What really stands out to me is how connected the district is to the community. Families, staff, and local residents are genuinely invested in our schools, and that level of support makes a real difference. It's a true partnership, and it plays a big role in why our students succeed. Lansing also does a great job offering well-rounded extracurricular opportunities, giving students the chance to explore their interests, build confidence, and stay engaged. Academically, the district continues to perform at a high level while preparing students for whatever path they choose next. I'm especially proud of how Lansing has embraced initiatives like the Portrait of a Graduate and aligned with the New York State Education Department priorities. In many ways, our district has been ahead of the curve, focusing not just on academics, but on developing well-rounded students with the skills they need to succeed in today's world. Just as important, there's a strong commitment to creating an inclusive environment where every student feels valued and respected. To me, all of this is what makes Lansing such a special place, and why I'm proud to be part of this community and support the continued success of our schools.

DISTRICT ISSUES WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED:

One of my top priorities is helping return the Lansing Central School District Board of Education to a place that is cohesive, focused, and productive. I believe our board should lead by example, modeling respectful, inclusive, and culturally responsive behavior in every conversation and decision. Board of Education members have a responsibility to lead with integrity. When a board operates with mutual respect and a shared purpose, it sets

the tone for the entire district. It creates a positive culture that carries through our schools, our staff, our students, and the broader community.
I'm committed to being part of a board that works together, listens to one another, and stays focused on what matters most- supporting ALL students and strengthening the district as a whole.

STRENGTH(S) YOU HAVE WHICH WOULD MAKE YOU A GOOD BOARD MEMBER:

I will bring a well-rounded and grounded skill set that would make me an effective member of the Lansing Central School District Board of Education. I'm someone who is approachable and calm, even in difficult situations. People feel comfortable coming to me, and I take that seriously. I listen, I ask questions, and I work to understand all perspectives before helping move decisions forward.
I also bring creativity and proven experience navigating challenging economic periods. I understand what it means to make tough decisions, prioritize responsibly, and find solutions that maximize impact without losing sight of long-term goals. That mindset is critical when it comes to budgeting, resource allocation, and ensuring we're supporting students while being fiscally responsible to taxpayers.
I strongly believe that how a board operates is just as important as the decisions it makes. I understand the importance of modeling respectful, professional behavior at all times. That means being thoughtful in how I communicate, open to differing opinions, and focused on collaboration rather than conflict. The tone set at the board level has a direct impact on the culture of the district, and I'm committed to helping create a positive, productive environment. I also have a clear understanding of the role of a Board of Education member. It's about governance, setting policy, supporting the superintendent, and keeping the focus on student outcomes and not personal agendas. I'm prepared to do the work, stay informed, and make decisions that are in the best interest of the entire district. Most importantly, I want to be a voice for students, families, and community members who may feel like they aren't always heard. That means being present, accessible, and willing to engage in meaningful conversations. I want people to know they have someone on the board who will listen and represent them thoughtfully. I'm committed to helping move Lansing forward in a way that is respectful, collaborative, and always centered on what's best for our students and community.

ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE VOTERS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU AND WHY YOU ARE RUNNING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD:

It is important for voters to understand not just why I'm running, but the level of experience, energy, and commitment I will bring to the Lansing Central School District Board of Education.
I've been a Lansing business owner since 2007, and that's given me a deep long-term commitment to this community. I understand what it means to make tough decisions, to be accountable, and to lead with stability during challenging economic times. Those experiences have shaped how I approach challenges, with clarity, responsibility, and a focus on long-term success. My connection to this district is personal. I have a large blended family, and I take great pride in my role as a father and an advocate for my children. I have children who have already graduated and others currently enrolled across all three Lansing schools and at TST BOCES. I am actively involved in my children's academics, athletics, and other extracurricular activities. My children have varied

needs, interests, and learning styles, which has given me a strong, firsthand understanding of how important it is that every student is supported, challenged, and given the opportunity to succeed. Education and public service are part of my foundation. Both of my parents were educators in the Southern Cayuga Central School District and Groton Central School District, specializing in general education, special education, and literacy. I grew up seeing the dedication it takes to be an educator, and that instilled in me a deep respect for teachers and the critical role they play in shaping students' lives. That commitment to service was reinforced by my stepmother, who served as Supervisor for the Town of Genoa for nearly 20 years. I watched her make difficult decisions, balance the needs of the community, and lead with consistency and integrity. That example showed me what strong local leadership looks like. It inspired me to step forward and serve in a meaningful way. I've also spent years working directly with students. As the women's tennis coach at Wells College, I helped lead a team to qualify for the NCAA Championships, an experience that reinforced the importance of discipline, teamwork, and leadership. I've also coached varsity swimming, volleyball, and tennis between Southern Cayuga and Union Springs, achieving IAC Championships in both swimming and tennis. Those experiences have allowed me to build strong relationships with students and see their growth not just in the classroom, but through athletics and competition. Early in my career, I also worked as a substitute teacher in K–12 classrooms in Southern Cayuga and Union Springs School Districts. That experience gave me valuable insight into the day-to-day realities of our schools and a deeper appreciation for the work our educators do every day. All of these experiences, my business background, my family, my role as a father, my time in classrooms and athletics, as well as the leadership examples I've learned from, have prepared me to serve as a member on the BOE. I care deeply about this community. I understand the diverse needs of our students and families. I am committed to bringing a steady, thoughtful, and respectful voice to the board. I'm running because I believe in Lansing, I believe in our students, and I'm ready to step up, lead, and do the work to help our district continue to grow and succeed.