

LANSING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD CANDIDATE SUMMARY – 2026

(Please return with your petition no later than 5:00pm, Monday, April 20th)

NAME: MATTHEW LISONBEE
ADDRESS: 19 Whispering Pines Dr, Ithaca 14850
EDUCATION: PhD Candidate, Mgmt & Org.; M.Sc., Cornell University; MBA, University of Cambridge
EMPLOYER: Cornell University
CHILDREN (Names and Grades): Stockton (7th), Venice (6th), Louie (3rd), Lorenzo

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

The people within LCSD are a true strength of the district and something that has stood out to me and my children in a meaningful way. LCSD, as I have observed, has an exceptional community of teachers, parents, students, and staff who genuinely care about students and about one another, consistently going above and beyond to support and serve each other. The district also excels in providing a wide range of opportunities for students, whether through school plays, athletics, orchestra, band, and more, allowing them to grow and thrive.

DISTRICT ISSUES WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDRESSED:

I believe there is an opportunity to strengthen unity among board members so we can better represent our students and community with a shared purpose. As Abraham Lincoln said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."* There is also room for greater budget transparency and continued fiscal responsibility, along with consistently asking and addressing difficult questions. In addition, we can improve communication, not only around board decisions, but by providing clear, accessible information that empowers parents to make informed decisions for their children.

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

My career in international business, retail, and technology has given me a broad and unique perspective. I have worked with people from around the world and lived in six different countries, gaining exposure to diverse cultures and many different school systems. Throughout my career, from leading my own business to serving on business boards and working with and consulting for large organizations, I have navigated complex challenges and collaborated with others to find effective solutions. I have also been responsible for financial management, including budgeting and oversight, as well as communication initiatives, change management, and leadership. In addition, I spent several years in the education technology sector and am conducting research on artificial intelligence, positioning me to contribute meaningfully as the district navigates the role of AI in the classroom.

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

First and foremost, I am deeply committed to the success of our school district. As a parent of three children currently in LCSD, and soon a fourth, I am personally invested in ensuring they, along with all students, have the best and most effective educational experience possible. I am already familiar with current board discussions and issues, having consistently attended meetings in person over the past six months. I am devoted to preserving the values that have built the strong foundation upon which of our community and school district has been built. I love this community.

*Lincoln, A. (1858, June 16). House Divided speech. Springfield, IL.