

## **2026 School Board Candidates – March 3 Primary**

### **David Norris**

David Norris is an experienced information technology professional and dedicated community leader with over 20 years of public service in Carthage. He's known for his calm, principled leadership and commitment to transparency, ethics and fiscal responsibility. As Chairman of the Planning Board, Rotary President, and founder of the Military Tribute Banner program, David has a proven record of teamwork, accountability, and service to others. He believes in putting academics first, strengthening public trust and ensuring responsible stewardship of our schools.

### **Don Zawlocki (Coach Z)**

Don "Coach Z" Zawlocki is a lifelong educator, coach and community servant with over 44 years of teaching and coaching experience in schools across Indiana and North Carolina. Currently a math teacher at Sandhills Classical Christian School, he has dedicated his career to academic excellence, athletic leadership and student success. A Bethel College Hall of Fame inductee and church deacon, Coach Z is running for the Moore County School Board to keep our children safe, uphold strong values and promote excellence in academics, athletics, the arts and vocational education.

### **Jim Pedersen**

Jim Pedersen, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and former Director of Veterans Services for Moore County, is running for the Moore County Board of Education to bring disciplined leadership and fiscal responsibility to local schools. With a background in operations management, financial analysis, and public service, Jim is deeply engaged in the community through organizations such as the Marine Corps League, Disabled American Veterans, and Toys for Tots. His priorities are clear — ensuring student safety, strengthening academics, and eliminating wasteful spending to make every dollar count for Moore County students.

### **Olivia Oxendine**

Dr. Olivia Oxendine is an experienced educator and member of the State Board of Education with extensive expertise in K–12 public schools, district operations and education policy. Holding bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from North Carolina universities, she has served in key education roles across North Carolina, South Carolina, and Illinois. Believing that a school system is only as strong as its leaders, she is committed to raising reading proficiency, protecting students from inappropriate materials, and strengthening partnerships among parents, communities and elected officials.