

## Meet School Board Candidate Gregory Zimmerman

**Address:** 1207 Mary Hill Circle, Hartland, WI 53029

**Spouse:** Charlene Zimmerman

**Children:** Lana (3<sup>rd</sup> grade-enrolled in Swallow), Samuel (5K-enrolled in Swallow)

**Years of District Residency:** Two

### Education:

Winona State University  
B.S. Cell and Molecular  
Biology  
1999-2003

University of Minnesota –  
Minneapolis  
M.D. Medical Degree  
2004-2008

University of North Texas  
School of Public Health  
Currently pursuing MPH  
Jan 2017 – May 2019

**Current Profession:** ProHealth Care – Family Physician

### 1. Why have you chosen to seek election to the Swallow School Board of Education?

I have made the decision to run as a board member to lend my experience in a meaningful way that positively impacts our children. The high level of educational excellence within this area was a driving force to our relocation here.

### 2. What personal philosophies and experiences do you have that will help you best represent the Swallow electorate?

I currently work as a family physician which I have been doing for the past 10 years. I have experience serving on several executive level committees and advisory boards. A few of these include strategic planning, innovation development, and finance. Such involvement has given me well rounded experience in business planning and development with multiple viewpoints. I am also completing my Master's degree in public health where I am currently assisting in a health assessment and improvement plan in mental health that includes a specific focus in elementary schools. I believe in a servant style of leadership and feel it best suits anyone in an elected position. This can only exist with complete transparency and open, honest communication. On a personal level, I enjoy running, staying active, reading and anything else that keeps me productive.

### 3. What do you perceive to be major strengths of the District at this time and what strengths, experiences, and qualities do you possess that will support continued District efforts in these areas of strength?

The strength of the district comes from the parents and teachers. I have seen significant involvement of parents with classroom participation. Teachers are thoroughly committed and go above and beyond for the school. Listening to the teachers and what they need to succeed will benefit the school going forward and continued parental involvement will remain vital in maintaining success. Broadening our communication structure serves as the bridge. Awareness of the learning environment allows parents to continue education at home to expand on the ideas brought forward at school. It will be vital for everyone to be participatory in childhood education for us to maintain our status as a district leader in education. There is a need to balance electronic learning with hands-on learning while promoting individual thinking and leadership qualities. I believe Swallow takes this issue very seriously and is

working diligently on the balance. My work experience within a group structure on several committees and counsels will assist in this cooperative effort.

**4. What do you believe are the major issues facing the District at this time and what strengths, experiences, and qualities do you possess that will better position the District in navigating these issues?**

Every school district has significant upcoming challenges, of which many are universal. Through my study of finance, I have an understanding of the fiscal challenges that all school districts face and will be useful in this discussion going forward. In my evaluation of several school districts, addressing mental health is becoming more difficult and is manifesting at younger ages. Given the higher prevalence and rising standards of expectations, school districts often struggle on a systemic approach to these issues given the lack of strategic partnerships and resources. My experience in the clinical setting and community setting would be beneficial to strengthen our position. Proper nutrition is another growing issue. It is important to increase nutritional education and transparency within the cafeteria. We are seeing more schools implementing partnerships that provide locally sourced food. I have received additional clinical training that specifically deals with childhood nutrition that could benefit our district.