

Katie Lyczak and her husband Jeremy have been residents in the Wentzville School District for 16 years. They have two children who attend Peine Ridge Elementary. "My family takes pride in living in Wentzville. We love our community and love participating in community events! We consider it an honor to serve anywhere we can! Wentzville's Connection Theater Company has become a new love."

Katie's experience as an advocate for children will lend itself to being an effective school board member. Her advocacy resume spans many areas related to the wellbeing of children. She takes her role as an advocate for children and families very seriously and understands it is a critical piece for building stronger families and stronger communities. "I also understand how vital a school board is for a strong community since it makes decisions for the needs of the students, parents, district staff, and taxpayers. Strong local government, especially strong school boards, begin with strong families and strong communities." The following are a few of Katie's contributions to her community

- Executive Director at Oasis Resource Center where she advocates for families in crisis
- Serves on the Early Childhood task force in Lincoln County
- President of a child exploitation task force
- Member of the Coalition to End Child Sexual Exploitation that is facilitated by The Child Advocacy Center
- Community partner in the Missouri Early Care & Connection under the Missouri Department of the Child, Hub 12
- Safe Kids Coalition member
- Healthy Communities, Continuum of Care member
- Has experience as a substitute teacher
- Servant leader of the children's ministry at her church for 4 years

- Currently serving second term as President of the PTO at Peine Ridge Elementary
- Rotarian

Katie knows that a school district which has experienced as much rapid growth as Wentzville requires board members who serve the interests of its stakeholders. "I know board members take an oath to put kids first, but it is just as important for our whole community to have confidence that the district is doing an excellent job educating children, keeping both kids and teachers safe at school, and listening to the concerns and stakeholders have about the culture of our district."

Katie understands that the district Wentzville was 10 or even 8 years ago is not the district it is now. The goals may not have changed but the needs have. Even just the past three years have changed the district in dramatic ways. Three years ago virtual schooling was hardly on the radar. The district had just completed two new elementary schools with a third on the way. The fourth high school and middle school were in the works and the seemingly ever changing boundaries were forefront. Virtual learning brought the classroom into the home. Teachers did the best job they could with the resources they had. Learning loss and falling test scores have taken over as two of the most critical issues our district faces today.

Katie can be reached at her email address

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Current district needs

- Attract and retain high quality teachers and support staff. There is a hiring crisis right now. What is the root cause of the problem? How can we solve it?. How can we work to prevent it from happening again?
- How do we best support our current staff? Do teachers need additional classroom resources in order to excel at their jobs? What can be done to prevent disruptions in the classroom?
- Is Wentzville truly offering the highest quality of special services to children in need of a non-traditional education? Should virtual academy be limited to only students who administration approves?
- Teacher and student safety in the classroom; violence on buses. Both students and drivers/aids should be safe, all of the time, on buses. Violence on buses should not be tolerated. Period.
- How can we address masking on buses?
- As every aspect of life at school moves to a digital platform, student safety online is an issue that we can not allow to take the backburner. Is the district taking every precaution necessary to ensure our children and their personal information is safe online? The digital footprint our kids make now will follow them for the rest of their lives. Has the district put the proper safeguards in place to protect students?
- Curriculum... I realize DESE sets the learning standards. Beyond the standards, districts have the ability to adopt curricula as they see fit. The Curriculum Committee advises, the Board approves. Transparency is very limited. I would like to see changes to the lack of transparency in what curriculum is chosen and how it is chosen.

