

Candidate for President-Elect

Jennifer Parkins

Occupation:	Recreation Therapist
Do you now have children in public schools?	Yes
In the past, have you had children in public schools?	Yes
Years of service as a trustee:	9
District / Charter School Name:	Genesee Joint School District #282
Size of School District / Charter School:	305
Region No:	2



Jennifer Parkins
Genesee Jt. SD #282

What have you accomplished while serving on your local school board?

The first year I was on the Board, we passed a bond levy for a building addition. We have passed our supplemental levy every year (maintaining the same amount for the last four years). After attending an ISBA conference, we sent all of our high school teachers on an overnight trip to observe a project-based learning school in California and have supported their efforts in adopting many of those techniques in their curriculum. Hiring a new superintendent four years ago was a great experience, and we are so proud of her leadership. We have implemented 1:1 devices in grades 7-12, and are increasing the use of tablets in the elementary schools. Most recently, we are supporting our elementary teachers in adopting specialty teaching and new curriculum. I'm very proud to serve on our Board and feel the other board members are all very innovative thinkers and are motivated to improve our student's educational experience.

Why do you wish to become a member of the Executive Committee?

What I learn from state level participation directly impacts my local district, and ISBA has a significant influence on state legislation that positively affects all districts. Participating with legislators and communicating with districts offers greater opportunity for positive change in education. I have enjoyed my term as Region 2 Chair and would like to continue to be part of the Executive Committee at the next level.

Education:

I graduated with a BS in Therapeutic Recreation from the University of Idaho in 1989. I have also attended the University of North Dakota, North Idaho College, Lewis & Clark State College, and graduated high school in 1984 in Kellogg, ID.

Resume:

I am a native Idahoan, born and raised in Kellogg, ID. My parents, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, and soon, my oldest daughter, are all Vandal alumni. As a family, we spent our summers camping, hiking, fishing, and huckleberry picking. Rich and I have been married for 22 years. We have three children, Payton, a senior at U of I; Carson, who just graduated high school and is currently a wild land firefighter; and our youngest, Emerson, a freshman at Genesee High School. Our family loves the outdoors, all types of sports, and I do a lot of embroidery, gardening, and reading. My big project currently is trying to put our acreage into more sustainable use with native Palouse prairie seed and plants. Professionally, I worked as a Recreation Therapist in adult inpatient psychiatric treatment for 23 years, took about four years off, and have returned to my field of work at the Northwest Children's Home serving trauma/abused youth in a residential setting.

What other activities are you involved in?

- I am very active in my church. My son and I maintain the grounds at the little country church/cemetery near our home. I have served on the Genesee Lutheran Parish Council since 2008, and was council president for the last 6 years. I taught Sunday School for 15 years, and do a lot of program development and singing.
- I coached Mars Rover for three years, and enjoy volunteering at the school whenever they need a chaperone or judge on a panel for project presentations.
- I ran track at North Idaho College, was a University of Idaho cheerleader, and participated in Jr. Marine ROTC at Kellogg High School. In 2012, I completed the Portland Marathon with three friends after leaving my job of 20 years, which were both major events in my life!