

ANDREA SALEM



TRUSTEE

ABOUT MYSELF

As a former teacher and parent to three young children, I'm excited to begin my role as a trustee with LREF. I'm originally from Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan and attended both public and private schools growing up. I decided early on that I wanted to become a teacher and knew the education program at Miami University was an excellent fit for me as soon as I went on my college tour in Oxford. I graduated with a B.S. in Middle Childhood Education from Miami University in 2007, with a focus on math, science, and reading instruction.

After graduation, I moved to Atlanta, where I taught 6th and 7th grade science at a large and high-performing middle school in Johns Creek, Georgia for seven years. While there, I joined and led a variety of committees, participated in strategic plan development, interviewed and hired administrators, served as the coordinator for both our grade level and the science department, earned my talented and gifted certification, acted as a liaison between the school administration and the teachers, and moderated many clubs and extracurricular activities. I also graduated with a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership from Georgia State University in 2012.

In 2014, my husband and I decided to move back to the Midwest and start a family. He works for Key Bank, so

the move to Cleveland was a natural one. The people born and raised in Lakewood are proud of their roots and have personal reasons for loving this city so much, but from an outside perspective, we were drawn here for a long list of reasons. Access to the lake, proximity to downtown, and the plentiful parks and playgrounds around town are wonderful, but we were mostly attracted to the diversity, wide cultural acceptance, and celebration of the arts that Lakewood is known for.

After moving to Lakewood, I accepted a job as an eighth grade science teacher at Rocky River Middle School, where I taught for two years before deciding to stay home and spend time raising our three young children, two of whom attend Lincoln Elementary. As a new mom, I joined the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA, where I served as the baby and toddler tour coordinator for two years.

Now that I'm a parent with children attending Lakewood Schools, I'm looking for ways to support the teachers and students in our district. The biggest opportunity for Lakewood Schools over the next several years will be to continue with the endeavor of offering diverse, high-quality programming for students, but also to publicize those programs and the benefits of a Lakewood Schools education to the community at large.

The programming offered within Lakewood Schools is unmatched by smaller districts nearby, and that is thanks to the size and diversity of our student population. The benefits of a Lakewood Schools education are more plentiful and nuanced than what parents read about in the state report card published each year, and I'd like to help support the programs that make Lakewood Schools excel and also help highlight what a special school district we are.