

*Citizens for a Fair Ferndale (fairferndale.org) seeks to help Ferndale voters get acquainted with those running for public office. To this end, we asked all Candidates for library board to complete this CFF Candidate Questionnaire. CFF thanks our candidates for responding to this questionnaire and for their willingness to lead.*

## **Ferndale Area District Library Board Candidates November 2022 Election**

### **Erin Hooper**

Northwest Ferndale

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#### **Why did you decide to run for the library board?**

I'm running for the Ferndale Area District Library Board because I want to help steward what I believe to be one of the most fundamental resources a community can provide its people.

#### **What strengths do you bring to the library board?**

Marketing and communication strategy, budgeting and business planning, programming and project management, perspective and empathy.

#### **What do you see as the challenges and opportunities faced by the Ferndale Area District Library as it considers its future?**

It's hard to name the challenges when, from the outside, our library seems to be extraordinarily well run with programs and resources designed for every demographic of the community. One challenge I've noted from the outside is a lack of diversity on the library board - a challenge I'd not be fixing through mere election but one I'd hope to help resolve through engagement with the broader community during my time serving on the board.

#### **What role does the library board play in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in our District Library? How do you see Ferndale Area District Library promoting racial equity specifically?**

I understand there is an active DEI committee delegated by the board to help promote diversity, equity and inclusion at our library. Creating a place of inclusivity and belonging starts from within, and I'm glad to see library leadership on the right track. Training staff, being more visible in Ferndale Public Schools' buildings and events, engaging more with city leadership and parks and recreation, and recruiting individuals from the community to be more involved in library programs and services will help.

**Describe the Ferndale Area District Library in fifteen years. What do you see?**

I still see books, especially allllll the banned books. But I also see laptops, cameras, and other technology being available for check out, as well as media types that aren't as accessible to every curious mind or person in need (or want) of a resource. Maybe in 15 years our resources include professional services for "hourly checkout." Our world is changing rapidly, and if any library can keep up, it's Ferndale's.