



PSRS/PEERS

Board of Trustees Candidates



Missouri National Education Association Recommend



Darren Farmer

Darren Farmer, of Cowgill, has 22 years of experience as an agriculture education instructor and is currently teaching in the Polo R-VII School District. Prior to that, he worked in the Richmond R-XVI School District and Tina-Avalon R-II School District.

Mr. Farmer graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a Bachelor of Science Degree in agricultural education and a Master of Science Degree in agricultural education. Mr. Farmer has been involved outside the classroom throughout his education career.

He served as president of the Missouri Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (MVATA), and has held various offices within the organization.

Mr. Farmer has been president of the Polo Community Teachers Association and a delegate to the Missouri State Teachers Association Annual Assembly of Delegates. Currently, he is serving on the MSTA Legislative IMPACT Committee.

Within the community, Mr. Farmer serves on the local county Missouri Farm Bureau Board as well as the local county fair board.

He and his wife, Elaine, reside on their family farm outside of Cowgill, MO. They have three children, Keith, Kathryn and Kerrienne.



Melinda Moss

After an early career in the finance and banking industry, Melinda Moss returned to her first love, public education and has never looked back. Currently serving as superintendent of Joplin Schools, she has 27 years of educational experience.

Dr. Moss began her teaching career in public education at the Greene County Cooperative in Republic, as a special education teacher. She also served as a Missouri school counselor in Spokane, Springfield and Reeds Spring before becoming Reeds Spring middle school principal. Her first superintendency was in Harrison, Arkansas, before returning to Missouri in 2017.

Dr. Moss graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in finance and banking. She received her special education coursework and master's in guidance and counseling from Missouri State University. Her doctorate is in educational leadership from Saint Louis University.

Dr. Moss has been involved outside the classroom as well. She has served on Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and United Way boards, her church deacon committee, Joplin's Creative Learning Alliance and others.

She and her husband, Greg, reside in Joplin. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

For more information on the candidates, contact Suz Conner at sconner@msta.org

