



## Clay Tallmadge

I hope to serve the Dolores School District as a member of the Board of Education. Having worked for 14 years as a teacher and coach in the Dolores schools, I feel I understand our district.

I grew up in Durango, Colorado and attended college at Colorado State University where I received a degree in Human Development and Family Studies with an emphasis on childhood development. Upon graduation I worked for a wilderness therapy company in Oregon, primarily dealing with teens suffering from substance abuse, emotional and discipline issues.

Upon returning to Durango, I earned a teaching license from Fort Lewis College. I met a wonderful woman living in Dolores and we started our life together here. At the Dolores Middle and Elementary Schools, I taught Math, Reading, and Social Studies; worked as a volleyball, knowledge bowl and track coach. I served the teachers' association in a number of roles. Over the years I represented our district at the local, state and national level at conferences and educational events, standing up for the needs of rural schools.

In 2003, we started Zuma Natural Foods in Mancos, and our connections in Montezuma County grew. When our third child was born, we sold this business and it is fun to see it still thriving today.

In 2016, our family bought Pleasantree Farm from the Hite family and a year later I stepped away from teaching to devote my energy to this tree nursery. Over the last three years we have learned a lot about the complex issues around irrigation in the desert, working with other local businesses to market our products around the western states, and so much more.

I consider myself to be fun loving, hardworking, honest and fair. I will do my best to support the students, teachers, administrators, parents, business owners and all tax payers that make up the Dolores RE-4A School District. One of the most important roles of a board member is to listen to the ideas and concerns from those who make up our district. The Dolores schools are a reflection of the diverse and changing nature of the southwest. My goal is to serve this district as it grows and changes over the coming years.