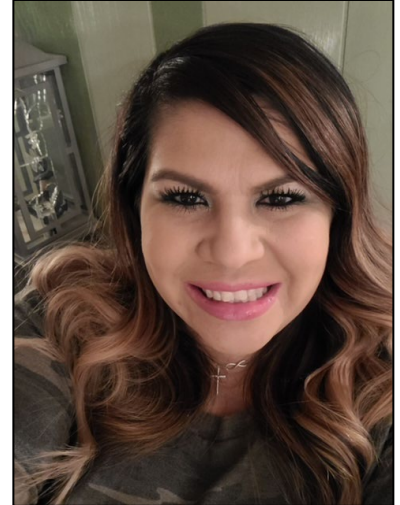


SNA Board Candidate, Jess Pena | December 2022

Our very own Jess Pena is running for a spot on the School Nutrition Association's Board of Directors! Jess is the Nutrition Services Director at Red Wing Public Schools and the MSNA Nutrition Chair. Read more about her below, and don't forget to vote in the [SNA elections](#), held February 15-28, 2023.



Why did you become interested in an SNA board position?

My interest in serving on the SNA board has always been a dream of mine. I have served on various committees within MSNA and was always ready to volunteer. When I received a fateful phone call from Carrie Frank in October 2021 asking if I would like to join the MSNA board, I was jumping for joy! Imagine my surprise when receiving a nomination to be on the SNA ballot for the Board of Directors; words cannot explain my amazement. I felt so appreciative that I was on their radar.

What talents/experiences could you bring to the SNA board?

Starting in a three hour cashier position really opened up my heart and passion to become more involved in school nutrition. I was looking for more ways to make an impact on the kiddos that I fed every day. The experiences of working my way up into a director role gives me the unique lens of seeing the big picture and realizing how every decision can affect many aspects of the program.

How and when can we vote in the election?

Voting takes place online and starts on February 15th (coincidentally on my birthday) and goes until February 28th. You do need to know your SNA number to vote. You can simply go to the SNA website to vote.

Anything else you'd like to add?

I just want to let everyone know how honored I am to be on the ballot, and that I hope to be able to have a shot at winning a seat on the Board of Directors. This would give Minnesota a voice to help make positive decisions to strengthen our school nutrition programs.