

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE
BLUE VALLEY SCHOOL BOARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #232

Name: Jodie Dietz

Candidate for Board Seat #: 3

Address:

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Campaign Treasurer: Peggy Miles

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Occupation/Work History - last 5 years (25 word limit):

Probation Officer Johnson County, KS 1996-1999. Service Provider Coordinator Johnson County District Court 2001-2004. Probation Officer Johnson County, KS (temporary) 2017-2018.

Most Recent Political/Community Experience (25 word limit):

Overland Park Community Development Block Grant committee , BSW/ABMS PTO President, BVSD Board Committee Curriculum and Instruction and Student Services, BVRec Citizens Advisory Committee

As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues (25 words per line)

1. The well-being and mental health of our children.
2. Advocate for school funding to assist our students as well as staff.
3. Work to educate each individual child where they are at.

The KS Supreme Court recently ruled the current school funding formula is both equitable and adequate, however, the Court retained jurisdiction over the case to assure the funding is maintained. Briefly, what are your thoughts on the new formula and the additional dollars that have been added to K-12 school funding?

The State of Kansas is headed in the right direction regarding school funding but we still have work to do such as being flexible to change for student needs and inflation. We are still on the lower end of states for teacher pay. Supporting a strong school system will attract new businesses and retain ones we have. Every outstanding community is made of many pieces that require continual support.

With the recent ruling by the KS Supreme Court that the new funding formula and related funding are constitutional, it is likely the legislature will look closely at accountability measures for student performance. Please describe the accountability measures you support and believe are reflective of student achievement.

We have used many different tools over the years such as MAP, KAP, ACT readiness, AP tests, and kindergarten readiness which have proven effective. The addition of social/emotional tools will be another tool to add benefit. It is so important to have standards to check our progress and to be held accountable to the public. The 2018 study

that was sponsored by the Kansas Legislature reported that our schools were highly efficient.

Kansas is experiencing all time low unemployment rates and employers are struggling to find qualified workers, especially in technical and skilled trades. How do you see the Blue Valley School District helping to meet our business community's future workforce needs through technical education and training?

This is an exciting time to be a Blue Valley student. College readiness has always been a focus but we have great opportunities through alternative programs like JCCC and the fire fighter certification.

Other than funding, what do you see as the greatest challenge facing the district?

We must look at the social/emotional well-being of our kids. Our kids are facing many different issues which are affecting mental health which in turn affects learning.

Why are you seeking public office?

As a mom of 3 kids who attend/have attended Blue Valley schools, I have a vested interest in the success of our district. Community does not just happen. It takes a lot of work from many different areas like businesses, libraries and schools to build a successful community.