

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

**Name:** Stephanie James

**Candidate for Board Seat #:** Area 3

**Address:**

13924 W 139th Terr  
Olathe, KS 66062

**Campaign Treasurer:** Rick Bradshaw

**Campaign Website:**

stephaniejamesforbluevalley.com

**Phone:** 913-829-4054

**Campaign E-Mail:**

stephaniejames4bluevalley@gmail.com

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

Accountant for a charitable foundation

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

Precinct Committeewoman for 16 years Olathe Civic Academy Graduate

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

1. Retaining teachers with competitive salaries and providing more resources to their classrooms.
2. Provide more instruction to help students become ready for life - communication skills, personal responsibility, personal finance education.
3. Making the most of the money we have. I want to make sure that the money being spent results in measurable positive outcomes for our students.

**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?**

I am pleased to see the court rule the funding was adequate. However, the decision to retain the case means the cloud of litigation still hangs over the state, which will mean uncertainty may still exist. Relative to the current funding, when the board sets the budget, I want to make sure that the funds the district is allotted are child-focused, that is, they are being prioritized for teachers, classrooms, and related learning activities.

**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.**

I applaud any efforts to increase accountability and that is not something we should fear. I think we should be prepared to demonstrate that funding is going to where it belongs -

teachers, classrooms, and related learning focused activities. Essentially, we need to demonstrate that what we are doing is working, and I believe we can do that.

**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?**

I believe the district could build relationships with community colleges and trade schools to offer high school students the opportunities to explore the technical and skilled trades before graduating from high school. Not every high school graduate needs to go to a traditional four year institution right out of high school - and we should recognize that.

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

The greatest challenge is meeting the needs of students not just academically but helping them navigate and prepare for real world experiences and problems.

**Why are you seeking public office?**

I have been very involved in the Blue Valley district for 11 years and have learned that the district is doing a lot of things well. I want to make sure that continues but also that we respect Blue Valley taxpayers and patron needs.