

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

Name: Amy Tysseling

Candidate for Board Seat #: 1

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

CFO and Head of Human Resources at DEMDACO, a locally owned product development company that strives to Lift the Spirit of givers and receivers.

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

Member of the Blue Valley School Board and Leawood Chamber of Commerce Chair Elect

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

1. Focus on Social Emotional Learning, particularly suicide prevention
2. Developing qualities of a graduate beyond academics, including socialization, compassion, problem solving and critical thinking
3. Creating opportunities for students after graduation beyond attending a 4-year college

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 recent ruling of the Kansas Supreme Court that protects the state's constitution for equitable and adequate funding for K-12 education is a step in the right direction to ensure Blue Valley has the resources necessary to help improve the school system. The legislature's adoption of a plan to restore Kansas school district funding to constitutional levels is another step in the right direction. However, ensuring that Blue Valley can offer the same or better level of services as in the past and hire and retain good teachers will require more dollars (revenue to the district) than we receive today.

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 believe that Blue Valley needs to continue to focus on academic achievements including ACT/SAT scores, national merit scholars and graduation rates. Our teachers are the key to

success for our students, so the retention rate of and recognition for high-quality teachers is also important. Focusing on the success of students in special education, BV Academy and BV's 18-21 year program is critical. Achievement beyond the classroom should be recognized as well. This includes athletics, art, theater, vocal, band and orchestra, debate, robotics and more. All means all in Blue Valley and all aspects must be considered when measuring success.

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?

Blue Valley has already made great strides in this space, but there is definitely more work to do. Starting with this school year, BV now has a partnership with JCCC to offer Construction Management and Automotive Technology courses. Students have an option to get their associate degree in addition to high school credits which will allow them to utilize their education more quickly. BV is also partnering with companies like Garmin, Ford and the OP Fire Department to explore other options. Continued progress of these efforts will be important in filling our community's workforce needs.

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

The vaping epidemic has become a significant challenge for the district. Watching the news each day, the number of kids with significant health issues due to vaping is rising quickly. As a school district, BV has to pivot on a daily basis to ensure students are not vaping in class or in bathrooms. This effort is to help protect those that vape and those that don't who are often bullied. BV needs to continue to take a stand on education related to this topic and identify and implement additional steps can be taken to protect kids.

Why are you seeking public office?

I joined the board through appointment in September 2018. My initial interest came as I am a lifetime Kansas City resident and Shawnee Mission East graduate, so I have been fortunate to benefit from an area with highly recognized school districts. I feel very fortunate that my son, Grant, has been a part of the BV school system. Being a board member allows me to use my skills and experiences while giving back to a district that has been very good to our family. My goal is to be an advocate for all kids in Blue Valley.