

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

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Candidate for Board Seat #: Position 2

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

Attorney KCATA - General Counsel

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

Blue Valley School Board Member, Position 2. Father's Club. My proven leadership, professionalism, insight and experience are needed as a voice for schools and kids.

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

1. Educational Excellence - 1. Develop true personalized learning curriculum around each student. 2. Maintain nationally recognized programs and seek new ways to offer additional innovative opportunities. 3. Attract, develop and retain the best educators and staff. 4. Encourage community participation in the educational process.

2. Fiscal Responsibility - 1. Preserve funding and maximize dollars for classrooms. 2. Continue strategic implementation of technology. 3. Maximize efficient utilization of funds, so taxes will not need to be unduly increased. 4. Maintain excellent schools as driver of economic development.

3. Social & Emotional Well-Being and Awareness - 1. Develop vaping cessation plan, education and policies. 2. Expand substance abuse, mental health awareness, diversity and inclusion, bullying and suicide prevention and intervention. 3. Encourage community based support and partnering with medical community.

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 new formula and the additional dollars are a starting point in the right direction to ensure public education is adequate for all the children. In subsequent years, what constitutes adequate funding for education as required by the Kansas Constitution is a continuing issue that must be addressed by the State each year in the Kansas Budget.

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.

Blue Valley has an unparalleled history of student success and achievement. We are happy to share our measures that reflect student achievement with the legislature. We must continue to benchmark against best practices. Maintain and improve nationally recognized programs. Continue to develop programs that teach kids to be critical thinkers. Both qualitative and quantitative measures should be considered, like MAP testing, ACT and SAT and programs like BV's World Language in our schools.

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?

The District in partnership with JCCC has developed several academic and occupational programs where students can earn dual credit. This program provides a course sequence and identify pathways from secondary schools to two- and four-year colleges, graduate schools and the workplace. The District in partnership with JCCC continue to expand college and career readiness options for students, along with career tech education (CTE), and financial literacy. Just this year we have offered two new programs through this partnership.

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

Retaining the best employees, rising building maintenance costs and developing a personalized learning program for each child.

Why are you seeking public office?

It has been an honor to serve on the Blue Valley Board of Education. As the District navigates in this new funding and learning environment, now is not the time for more changes on the Board or for inexperience. Educational excellence, early childhood development, mental health, community engagement, partnerships and fiscal responsibility are critical as we move forward. We need someone who understands school funding, the operations of a large school district, the Kansas legislature, and how important quality education is to the community, the local economy and Blue Valley voters. Growth. Innovation. Students first.