

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

Name: Renee Bartholome

Candidate for Board Seat #: 2

Address:

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

Worked in BV Schools 2013-2018. I entered the world of self-employment to allow me the flexibility and time necessary to be a School Board Member.

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

President: BVNW, OMS, and CPE schools Board Member: Blue Valley Ed Foundation Patron: C&I and Health & Wellness District Advisory Boards More information:
http://renee4bvschools.com/exp_acc.html

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

1. Students: Continue to advocate for students' mental health & social-emotional needs while still preparing them academically for a changing world. Continue working towards Customized Learning Plans to ensure the ongoing success of every student in every building, every day.

2. Staff: Remain focused on recruitment, retention & support as we adapt to a future shortage of talented teachers. Provide mentoring & professional learning along with leadership opportunities & competitive compensation to all Blue Valley staff.

3. Parents/Community: Build stronger ties between the School Board & parents/community members on topics that affect our students; vaping, substance abuse, bullying, suicide intervention, as well as mental health & wellness issues. Explore partnerships with community resources to prepare our students for success after graduation. Through it all, maintain the high percentage level of tax payer dollars going to the classroom & supporting functions.

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?

With the Supreme Court decision handed down on 6.14.19, I believe we are on the path to adequately funding our schools as long as the agreed upon funding remains in place. It is important to make sure Legislators continue to adhere to the ruling.

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.

A one day high-stakes test should not be the only factor used to measure a student's performance. Students are on a continuum in the area of education and the measurements should reflect that. We should be looking at instruments which will measure improvement and growth throughout a student's k-12 journey.

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?

Students today require different skills. The District has done a good job preparing students who are on a college path. We now need to look at those students who may be going into fields requiring technical education/training. We must continue to pursue partnerships like what is currently in place with Johnson County Community College. Students are concurrently enrolled in their Construction Design and Automotive Tech programs while still attending high school. All our students need to be confident whatever path they choose, they are prepared to go out and succeed upon graduating from a Blue Valley High School.

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

Many of the challenges facing our district are occurring outside the academic realm. Bullying, vaping, substance abuse, social media and the pressures to fit in/be successful are hitting our students from all sides. As a community we need to partner with our school district to provide the necessary tools to cultivate the life skills to be successful and deal with the pressures of everyday living. Resiliency, confidence and self-advocacy as well as mental and social/emotional support and resources are critical as we move forward in addressing the idea of "The Whole Child".

Why are you seeking public office?

I have a passion for education and children. I support a quality public school education for all students. As a parent of four very different children, each with their own unique learning styles, I understand the importance of striving for an individualized learning experience for each and every student. In an age where parents want their children to succeed, children feel the pressure to be the best, and social media highlights both triumphs and failures, we must work together to ensure the success of ALL students both academically and mentally as well as socially and emotionally.