

2019 Blue Valley School Board

Response ID:13 Data

1. Policy Questionnaire

1. Candidate Information

First Name

Tom

Last Name

Mitchell

Candidate for Board Seat #

At Large

Street Address

12420 Flint Street

Apt/Suite/Office

City

Overland Park

State

Kansas

Zip

66213

Country

Phone Number

913 461 3149

Campaign Treasurer

NA

Campaign Website

NA

Campaign Email Address

tmitchell@dlrgroup.com

Candidate's Occupation

Fax Number

Mobile Phone

2. (untitled)

2. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

DLR Group Architects, Engineering, Interiors
Global Hospitality Leader
Principal in the Firm

National Business Development Leader
Principal in the Firm

3. Most recent Political/Community experience? (25 words or less)

-Blue Valley Board of Education
-JCCC Foundation Board/Executive Committee
-Blue Valley Education Foundation-Past Chair
-Leawood Chamber of Commerce-Past Chair
-JOCO Economic Research Institute-Past Chair

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

1 : Student Safety as it relates to access to our buildings, vaping, and
2 : Effective use of technology.
3 : Public Engagement and it's interaction with the Blue Valley Board of Education.

5. The Kansas 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? (100 words or less)

With this recent Kansas Supreme Court ruling, I know that many lawmakers worked very hard to get to this point, and I really appreciate the champions for public education that we have in Topeka. As we embark on a new strategic plan here in Blue Valley, it is critical that we have the resources necessary to help us continue to improve our school system. The recent school finance provision is a big step toward that end.

6. With the recent ruling by the Kansas 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. (100 words or less)

-Well rounded, emotionally healthy and happy students.
-Graduation Rates
-Student Achievement in regards to honors and awards.
-Test Scores

7. 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? (100 words or less)

Turning it up a few notches by our recent collaboration with the JCCC Career-Ready Programs and the Hugh L. Libby Career and Technical Education Center as well as a new future Career and Technical Education Center being built pending the passage of the January, 2020 Blue Valley Bond Referendum

8. Other than funding, what do you see as the greatest challenge facing the district? (100 words or less)

- The Health and Emotional Well Being of each child must be a top priority. Strategic plan.
- Really understanding what ALL MEANS ALL means and using our "why" and re-imagined learning strategic plan to ensure that happens. Make sure we take care of "the kids in the middle"
- Technology and Innovation. We are much, much better than several years ago, but we need to ensure that continues. Strategic plan and Digital District.

9. Why are you seeking public office? (100 words or less)

Passion for this community and wanting to ensure that it continues to thrive. I use below as my North Star to further help make sure the district provides Education beyond Expectations for our kids:

o Our Goal #2 and how it relates to the well-rounded child.

o Continuing to drive our Why. Re-imagined Learning + Changing the World Strategic Plan: + Academic Achievement + Whole Child + All Means All + Innovation

o Economic Development 101: The #1 most important thing that a community must have to provide a great quality of life, are schools that excel. It drives everything.
