

**2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE**  
**DESOTO SCHOOL BOARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #232**

**Name:** Jarrod McGinnis

**Candidate for Board Seat #:** 1

**Address:**

9159 Scott Dr.  
De Soto, KS 66018

**Campaign Treasurer:** NA

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

I have worked 22 years for John Deere in progressing roles in our Marketing and Customer Support organizations.

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

I have served on the DeSoto High School Site Council for three years. I am a volunteer coach of two softball teams.

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

1. Future-ready students: Prepare students for their own individual success
2. Valued employees: Attract, develop and retain the best teachers, administrators and staff
3. Maximized finances: Anticipate needs, plan budgets and manage investments and expenses

**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?**

If we are going to raise children in our state that are ready to compete for jobs and successful complete college we must properly fund education. The additional dollars that have been injected into the States K-12 schools is currently sufficient meet the needs of the state's schools. The formula itself of BASE x FTE seems simple, but the behind the scenes weightings process makes it more complex. This complexity is necessary to account for the vast differences in school districts across the state. I do think it is proper to establish the BASE figures 3-4 years at a time.

**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 simple, yet critical measure that should be accounted for is attendance. If we are

developing future ready students the first element to success in a career is to be there. It seems simple, but I have seen first hand the impact poor attendance can have on a factory. Attendance is also a reflection of how well the school is engaging the students. In addition to tracking attendance standardize testing of the students performance in core subjects should be utilized.

**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 DeSoto School District helping to meet our business community's future workforce needs through technical education and training?**

Technical education has been undervalued in our society for too long. The DeSoto School District is working to fill the technical education gap. The most obvious action the district has taken is funding a new CTE Center through the 2018 bond. The district efforts are broader than just making plans to build a CTE center. When traveling to the elementary schools I have seen the up to date maker's spaces in the elementary schools designed to peak the youngest kids interest in this area. While serving on the DHS Site Council we have worked to increase the focus on CTE.

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

As the youth of our society relies more on their mobile devices and other forms of technology it will be critical to provide the De Soto school district students with competence in interpersonal communication. The district will have to balance utilizing technology to educate our youth while still growing their verbal and written communication capabilities. These skills will enrich their future interactions with colleagues, customers, friends and family. Being able to clearly transfer your ideas and thoughts directly with others will always be valued in our society.

**Why are you seeking public office?**

As the father of three, school-age girls and the son of a lifetime teacher, I know firsthand the impact public school can have on families and communities. These experiences with public education and my desire for USD 232 to continue its journey of excellence are why I chose to run for school board. I will dedicate my time, energy and talents to help the district deliver an exceptional environment for students, staff and the community.