

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE
DESOTO SCHOOL BOARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #232

Name: Stephanie Makalous

Candidate for Board Seat #: 3

Address:

20815 W 68th St.
Shawnee, KS 66218

Campaign Treasurer: Heather Blanck

Campaign Website: stephanie4usd232.com

Phone: 913787154

Campaign E-Mail: smakalous@msn.com

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

Crossfirst Bank, Director of Treasury Services - 2011 to present

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

Kansas Action For Children Board Member Kansas CTE Board Member Horizon PTA Secretary
Girl Scout Troop Leader Lutheran Church of Hope, youth group leader

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

1. Continue focus on pathways in the CTE Program in the district.
2. Gage and manage adequate funding for the district.
3. Encourage small class room sizes.

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?

I am pleased the the court made a ruling. This will allow our administration to plan for current, and future funding needs. I hope that the legislature will continue to recognize the costs of doing adequately educating the future Kansans, understanding that costs continue going up within districts and increase funding will likely be needed as time goes by. For now, it's provided a much needed reprieve for district's to stabilize their finances and once again, begin working on long-range plans.

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.

Unfortunately, our society believes that numbers determine success in society, no matter if it is in business or a school district. While I do feel that each person should be held accountable for their own success, I do not feel that numbers are always reflective on progress especially when it comes to test scores and the numbers of college bound students. I feel that each student should have their own goals and success plans, not

determined by the state, but by the education professional and the local district leadership who best know how a student is truly growing.

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?

I am so proud of the direction our district is taking with community leaders and partnering districts on this exact topic. Our administration is working with economic development directors of surrounding communities to determine the needs of their businesses, as well as working with business and industry leaders to implement programs into the schools, to create the workforce needed for the future. De Soto and Shawnee Mission school districts are working together to create programs for students that do not overlap, they are also working with Johnson County Community College as well. This is prime time for our CTE facility.

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

I think mental health is going to be the next challenge that the district will have to work with families on. The district is fully aware of this issue and I believe it will continue to be a growing need, not only for our district, but for all districts. We have taken the first step in working with other Johnson County school districts on the #zeroreasonswhy program/campaign. This is a prime example of our district recognizing that this is becoming more and more of an issue that families and students require help navigating mental health challenges.

Why are you seeking public office?

I have chosen to be a candidate for USD232 Board of Education because I am passionate about this district, the students of this district, and the education professionals that are the glue that holds this district together. I want to continue building on the excellence that the De Soto district is known for and to ensure our students have access to an amazing public education. I say it often, but it can't be said enough, I believe we have an EXCELLENT school district, and I seek this position, to help ensure we continue building on that excellence!