

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE
DESOTO SCHOOL BOARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #232

Name: William Fletcher

Candidate for Board Seat #: USD#232
Position 1

Address:

8953 Hillview Drive
De Soto, KS 66018

Campaign Treasurer: Kathy Fletcher

Campaign Website:

Phone: 913-441-3153

Campaign E-Mail: kfletche@kumc.edu

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

Own a company Kansas Land Management a mowing and landscaping business.

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

Have been a board member of the USD #232 for 12 years

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

1. State Funding for schools.
2. Growth in the District.
3. Provision of higher salaries for teachers & staff.

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 believe that this formula is only a bandaid until the state finds a better way to fund schools. This issue has been discussed at the state level for over 30 years with no solution.

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.

There are many ways to measure student achievement. Testing is one way--through achievement tests and college entrance exam results we could compare our students with national standards. Could use focus groups to get qualitative data about students and faculty opinions to see their understanding of how they are achieving the goals of the district. It is also important to look at ways to measure those in special education or for whom English is not their primary language.

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?

We are in the process of constructing a alternate pathways building to support different career pathways. We also have a coop with Eudora for VoTech programs. I would like to see the district encourage more businesses in our area to participate in internships to also assist in this career development.

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

(1) The large increase in enrollment and the potential increase size of classes. (2) Recruiting good teachers and staff.

Why are you seeking public office?

My children grew up in this district and my grandchildren are currently enrolled in this district. I want to make sure we maintain the excellence of our education so that all children of this district have the tools to succeed in the future.