

2019 Shawnee Mission School Board

Response ID:7 Data

1. Policy Questionnaire

1. Candidate Information

First Name

Devin

Last Name

Wilson

Candidate for Board Seat #

512-5 SMSD Northwest Area

Street Address

7805 Darnell Street

Apt/Suite/Office**City**

Lenexa

State

KS

Zip

66216

Country**Phone Number**

9134846743

Campaign Treasurer

Carolyn Davis

Campaign Website

<https://devinwilson.org/>

Campaign Email Address

devin@devinwilson.org

Candidate's Occupation**Fax Number****Mobile Phone**

2. (untitled)

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

Senior Environmental Scientist, Black & Veatch
Professional Wetland Scientist
Certified Professional in Erosion & Sediment Control
Envision Sustainability Professional

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

Game On for Kansas Schools - Board Member
Legislative Chair KSPTA, SMAC-PTA, SMNW-PTSA, Trailridge MS PTA, & Mill Creek PTA

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

1 : Community Engagement. I will leverage my PTA, Game On for Kansas Schools advocacy work to create stronger ties between the school board and community members.
2 : Individualized Learning. I support individual learning plans to close gaps holding some students back. I'll bring all stakeholders to the table to get this done.
3 : Quality Public Education for All. Kansas has a rich history of supporting public education. We must ensure this continues by adequately and equitably supporting schools.

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)

Although I am happy the legislature finally provided a plan to meet its constitutional duty, it will take time to recover from the damage done over the previous decade. We must balance the needs of the district to responsibly restore programs, improve salaries and implement the new strategic plan to ensure we recover in a sustainable way.

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)

School districts are held accountable for the funding they receive through the state accreditation process. Changes in recent years have made that a more rigorous and meaningful process that includes steps to guide improvement which should be the goal. Student achievement should not be measured by a single high-stakes test score. A variety of metrics such as attendance, graduation rates and post-secondary success also matter. Good data helps guide decision-making, but decisions should be made at a local level not through state mandates.

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 Shawnee Mission School District helping to meet our business community's future workforce needs through technical education and training? (100 words or less)

Career and Technical Education, SMSD Signature Programs, and the new Real World Learning grant from Kauffman Foundation are ways that SMSD is meeting the challenge. Ensuring that each student has an individual plan of study would also help ensure that each student has the chance to fully explore their options. One of the best ways to lay a foundation for the future workforce is to invest in early childhood programs to give kids a great start.

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

Rebuilding trust. The last superintendent lost the trust of community stakeholders and educators. It is an ongoing and arduous process.

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

I'm ready to leverage my work experience from my advocacy roles with PTA and Game On for Kansas Schools to create stronger ties between the school board and community members.

