

2019 CANDIDATE PROFILE
SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL BOARD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT #512

Name: Jamie Borgman

Campaign Treasurer: Brandon Jackson

Address:

14818 W 74th Ct
Shawnee, KS 66216

Campaign Website:

www.JamieBorgmanforSMSD.com

Phone: 913.568.8221

Campaign E-Mail:

BorgmanSMSD@gmail.com

Candidate for Board Seat #: Member 5 (NW area)

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

#NAME?

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

#NAME?

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

1. Mental Health. I look forward to SMSD leading the way in social and emotional learning (SEL). We need to remove the stigma of mental illness. If students are having mental health issues it becomes difficult for them to learn. We must help kids learn positive coping strategies, self-regulation techniques and provide them with proper support to create the best learning environment possible.

2. Digital Learning. I've been knocking on doors since June and connected with thousands of families. The number one issue I've heard at the door is too much time on devices in classrooms. We need to ensure devices are used intentionally. It should be utilized to enhance instruction, create personalized learning experiences and create learning which otherwise could not be possible.

3. Creating and supporting an equitable and inclusive culture for ALL students to thrive. SMSD's strategic plan makes clear the importance of embracing diversity and inclusion. SMSD must attract and hire minority educators. Studies show minority students perform better on tests, have better attendance and are suspended less frequently when they have at least one same race educator. We have to set the bar high for ALL students. Research states a teacher's estimate of student success is the number one driver of student achievement. It is imperative educators expect the best from students as well as provide engaging learning opportunities and work towards creating positive relationships to give ALL students the chance to be their best.

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?

It's a great start. Unfortunately, it will take years to recover from inadequate funding, which the Supreme Court found was unconstitutional. Some specific areas to be concerned about: -Special Education. The district is not reimbursed by the state at an adequate level. -As the number of English Language Learners (ELL) students and students in poverty rises in SMSD, it's critical the district receive equitable and adequate funding. All students deserve to be on equal playing field and we need to provide appropriate resources. -We must pay teachers fairly. This is imperative so the district can retain and attract quality teachers.

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.

SMSD currently follows the Kansas Department of Education standards as well as curriculum the district has purchased or created. I support evidence based evaluations that incorporate multiple measures. According to an NEA policy brief that I support, 'assessments should be designed to enhance learning and not simply get data. Assessments should measure growth in student learning from one point in time to another as well as attainment of standards. Tests should not be used as the only indicator of student growth and achievement. Finally, test taking should not overwhelm a student's classroom experience, teacher instruction or school system's resources.'

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?

SMSD has a Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that gives students an opportunity to learn a technical or skilled trade. SMSD must continue allocating proper funding for CTE as well as keep a close eye on emerging fields. According to The Kansas State Department of Education, "CTE is a crucial change agent for the success of improving outcomes for all students." SMSD needs to be on the forefront of offering students the tools they need to be college and career ready and CTE is an excellent way to support those efforts.

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

We have to commit to putting students first. Let's embrace methods that help students develop a personalized learning plan which will allow them to become college and career ready. In addition, we need to listen to teachers and pay them fairly. This will help us attract and retain quality teachers. If elected, anytime a decision is voted upon, I will make sure two questions are answered: 1) How is this benefiting students? 2) What do teachers think? If we put students first, pay teachers fairly and seek teacher input, students will have every opportunity to achieve their best.

Why are you seeking public office?

Simple - I am a mom who cares about students and want to see ALL students succeed! If we

put students first, everything falls into place. I have three children representing every building level: McAuliffe Elementary, Trailridge Middle and Shawnee Mission Northwest. I am plugged into our schools. I lead PTA committees, serve on site councils and founded SMSD Circle of Kindness. Additionally, I serve on Shawnee Parks and Recreation Board and mentor KSU students. I am an engaged community leader and mom, connected to students and teachers. Proudly, I am the only NW candidate endorsed by teachers (SM NEA).