

De Soto USD #232 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:8 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Emily Carpenter

2. Candidate for Board Seat

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 21114 W. 81st Terrace

City/State/Zip : Lenexa, KS 66220

4. Phone Number

479-381-7143

5. Email Address

bloss42@hotmail.com

6. Campaign Website

2. Candidate Background

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

I am a stay-at-home mom of 4 children. I coached girls basketball at Olathe North High School (2015-2016)

8. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

9. Other recent political/community experience (50 words or less)

I serve in my local church and I have been a Bible Study Fellowship children's leader for 4 years.

3. Issues and Policy

10. As a candidate, what are your top three education policy issues? (100 words or less)

Provide education for all students and refocus efforts on basic, essential curriculum that builds a foundation for learning. That includes math, science, reading, writing, history, civics, and government. Help students develop their logic and reasoning skills. Teach them to think, not what to think.

Provide teachers with the support they need to fully focus on educating our children. Create smaller class size (20 or less) which will allow for more individualized instruction. Also provide adequate planning time for teachers.

Develop and adopt policies that are consistent with state laws and do not violate individual rights.

11. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled the current K-12 education funding formula is both equitable and adequate. The Court, however, has retained jurisdiction over the case to assure funding is maintained. What are your thoughts on the formula and additional funding that has been added? (100 words or less)

I believe the answer to this question requires more than 100 words. Kansas has high national rankings on spending, but achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress is a little below average. In 2019, Kansas was 13th highest per-pupil spending, 6th highest state aid per pupil, 27th highest NAEP composite score and ranked 38th in productivity. There are other states that are spending less and achieving the same results, proving that spending more money does not cause student achievement to improve.

Kansas Policy Institute
<https://kansaspolicy.org/>

12. The K-12 education system requires accountability measures for student performance, which have sometimes been a source of debate. Please describe the accountability measures you support and believe are accurately reflective of student achievement. (100 words or less)

I believe you can measure each state's relative productivity by dividing the NAEP score into per-student spending to find the cost per point scored. Analysis of this nature is needed to hold schools accountable for spending money in the most effective ways to provide students the education they deserve.

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13. Kansas is experiencing low unemployment rates and employers are struggling to find qualified workers, especially in technical and skilled trades. How do you see the school district helping to meet the business community's future workforce needs through technical education and training? (100 words or less)

I believe the district will be providing more career and technical education opportunities with the addition of The Cedar Trails Exploration Center, which is part of the Center for Advanced Professional Studies. The Cedar Trails Exploration Center's mission is to develop and empower lifelong learners by providing opportunities for and encouraging exploration through personalized and innovative learning paths for students.

<https://www.usd232.org/domain/4288>

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

After the year we had in response to Covid and continuing to respond to Covid, our children's education has taken a toll. There is a need to rebuild the relationship between the school board, parents, teachers and students. However, the primary focus must be the educational improvement of students.

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

I believe parents that have children in this school district should be involved in the decision making of their children's education. I have spent the last year educating myself on the importance of the school board and feel led to help represent parents and students in the district.

16. What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the Board and most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (100 words or less)

I am a parent of 4 children, 3 currently attend school in the district. One in high school, one in middle school and one in elementary. I also have a 3 yr old, so I am invested for the long run in this district. I was the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball National Player of the Year, Academic All-American of the Year and named the NCAA Kansas Woman of the Year in 2001. Having earned these honors, I bring a unique perspective on the positive impact that academics and extracurricular activities have on a student's school experience.