

Gardner Edgerton USD #231 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:8 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Greg Chapman

2. Candidate for Board Seat

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 829 N Evergreen St

City/State/Zip : Gardner, Ks 66030

4. Phone Number

913-980-0773

5. Email Address

gregchapmanforboe@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

N/A

2. Candidate Background

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

Security Officer for 18 years

Licensed Massage Therapist 8 years

FedEx Ground Driver 3 Years

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)

USD231 BOE member for 4 years. I have been off the board for 2 years now.

3. Issues and Policy

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

I am very concerned about CRT after doing a lot of research on it, I feel that it doesn't offer the ability for healing, growth, or education.

I am also extremely concerned about the state of our SPED program currently. We have been taken decades into the past under the current leadership.

I would also like to make sure that our children learn a nonpartisan education on the constitution and founding documents. It is incredibly important for our students to know what their rights are and where they come from!

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 feel like a per pupil formula is the most fair and equitable way of handling education funding. I believe that most districts, especially in our area, receive adequate funding and just need to use the funding they have wiser. Our district does a pretty good job of this, in the past couple years it has begun to get a bit loose, but the finance director is amazing and has still made a way for us to stay fiscally responsible, even through Covid-19.

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 am personally against yearly accountability measures for students and teachers. I believe that this has made it more difficult for our amazing teachers to teach what the students NEED and instead are forced to teach to mostly to the test, or keep on a fast pace, regardless of student comprehension. I would be for performance measuring tests in 5th, 8th, and 11th grade to ensure that the basics of education have been taught fully. This would allow teachers to go at the speed of their students and not the speed of the state tests.

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 think this is an area that USD231 is doing a good job at. I feel like we need to work on the fundamentals harder, but working towards career and tech education is something we do very well. I look forward to being a part of continuing the current relationships and growing more, especially with the businesses surrounding us in our district.

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

The biggest issue I see in the school district is earning and growing the trust of the citizens, students, and staff of both Gardner and Edgerton. The very first meeting that I was off the board, the president and superintendent began a snowball effect of removing transparency and limiting public conversation. I want to work with the board to open transparency, and expand public comments to not only be at the beginning but also before/after every votable presentation. I also feel like we as a district deserve a more educated and experienced superintendent that is capable of handling district issues.

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

I am running once more because I can't sit back and watch the board alienate, disrespect, and not represent our citizens, students, staff, and fellow elected officials. I also can't sit back and watch the amazing SPED Program that helped my son grow into the man he is today, fall decades behind. We have lost far too many amazing coordinators, paras, and staff that are just special and amazing people, this HAS to change.

I have the experience, determination, and knowledge on how to work with the board to fix all the issues current and future for our students.

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)

As I said in question 15, I have 4 years of experience on the board. I would not be entering as a "freshman" that doesn't know how the board works, who the people are, or how the systems work. I already spent 4 years fighting for every citizen, student, teacher regardless of political views. I fought for transparency and fiscal responsibility. I already have relationships with many other elected officials to help mend the fences. I have already proven that I am willing to "Blaze New Trails" as our motto used to be when I was a Blazer.