

Shawnee Mission USD #512 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:3 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Sean Claycamp

2. Candidate for Board Seat

SMSD Seat 4

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 9106 Farley

City/State/Zip : Overland Park

4. Phone Number

9139016538

5. Email Address

seanclaycamp@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

seanfordsd.com

2. Candidate Background

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

I have been in medical sales for 16 years. The last five with LabCorp and now in radiology.

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.

No affiliations

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

First time candidate

3. Issues and Policy

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

Get politics out of schools on all sides to create stable learning environments for kids.

Enhanced transparency for parents with the goal of getting parents more engaged in the learning process for their children.

Attracting and retaining quality educators in a variety of ways including compensation. SMSD needs to get more funding into the instruction and the classroom and out of ancillary buckets.

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)

Budgets are going up and will continue to go up naturally every year. Currently, Districts are getting a bit of a "sugar high" from

Covid-related funding but that is eventually going to go away. All districts need to find ways to reallocate funding from ancillary services and direct it toward classroom education and educators, teachers, support staff in the classroom, etc. Adjusted for cost of living, Kansas is in the top third among states for funding of education per pupil. The issue isn't the dollar figure it is how it is spent.

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)

Assessment tests are never going away but I would encourage SMSD and all school boards to figure out a way to properly use assessment tests. Students do get test anxiety and teachers spend too much time teaching to the test because they feel like they have to. Problem solving and critical thinking skills need to be taught alongside core subjects that are measured in these tests and the whole child needs to be taken into account... not just scores on a standardized test.

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)

As students age into and out of high school many of them need to be encouraged to pursue careers that marry up better with their interests and strengths. Not every kid needs to go to college or pursue a 4-year degree. For some kids, trade school or a specific learning path for IT, etc., is the right fit. The military can also be a good fit. Kids need to feel like all avenues of training and employment after high school are important and valued... not just college.

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

Political beliefs and partisanship within the district is creating potentially toxic learning environments for children. It is OK for all educators and staff to have political beliefs and be active in those beliefs but they need to check those beliefs at the school house door as much as they can. Many children have parents or family that don't have similar beliefs and they feel at risk of being singled out potentially. I want all politics out of our classrooms.

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

I have been paying attention politically for quite some time and I am seeing a lack of listening and willingness to work together. I pride myself on trying to be a person who can listen to disparate views and try and find common ground to accomplish goals. No side has a monopoly on all the good ideas and I'd like to try to bring educators, administrators, parents, and students together to make SMSD a better place for all.

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 just a dad. I don't have any preconceived notions about how a school is supposed to be run or any alliances with any particular group of teachers, parents, administrators, or outside groups. I just want to listen, learn, and try to bring down the tension level within SMSD because this district has some problems and they need to be addressed.
