

# De Soto USD #232 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:5 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

John D. Gaignat

### 2. Candidate for Board Seat #

District 2, Position 5

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 5607 Brownridge

City/State/Zip : Shawnee

### 4. Phone Number

9132059987

### 5. Email Address

JGaignat@usd232.org

### 6. Campaign Website

n/a

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I am a Realtor with Keller for the past 4.5 years. Prior to that I worked for MetLife for 4 years

Hallmark for 10 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.

Our office has a membership to the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce

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

MVHS Booster Club President 4 years Vice President 1 year.

CCE PTA President, Co-President, Treasurer, Membership chair

MTMS PTA Treasurer and President

From 1998 to 2018 I was on a PTA or Booster Club Board about 14 or 15 years.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

1.) Keeping the kids and teachers safe during the pandemic and whatever fallout from that.

2.) Making sure the kids are educated on things they will use later on in life.

3.) Getting back and keeping the positive momentum we had prior to Covid.

### 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)**

Our teachers are paid less than neighboring districts which is not right. They stay here because of the size and the community support we have.

Whatever teachers everywhere make is not nearly enough. They are charged with educating and protecting our most valuable most valuable possession; our kids. (And one of the few things we own outright) :-)

**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)**

This is prior to Covid.

The teachers did a wonderful job of letting the parents know if there is a truancy or a grade problem. Teacher conferences are good, but the parents that really need to be there usually aren't.

**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)**

Our new tech center will be a great training ground for our kids to be contributing members of society. College is not for everyone. Going to college doesn't necessarily make a person successful. Not going to college doesn't necessarily make a person unsuccessful.

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

Bring everyone together. Making decisions that will have the greatest impact on the majority of the students.

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

I didn't want to be a "one and done." I feel with the experience I have it will make me an asset to the school board and the USD232 community. I like to be involved. See question #9.

**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 have more experience with Booster Club and PTA's boards than my opponents. I am not a single issue candidate. I am not running to get anyone fired or get a policy changed. I don't have any axe's to grind. I am running again because I am passionate about this district and community. We have lived here for 25 years. My kids went K-12 in this district. I guess this is my way of giving back to the district back for the wonderful education my kids received.