

De Soto USD #232 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:6 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Brandi Jonasson

2. Candidate for Board Seat

6

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 21908 W 56th Terrace

City/State/Zip : Shawnee, KS 66226

4. Phone Number

9139094418

5. Email Address

bjonasson12@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

2. Candidate Background

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

Stay at home mom 2005-2018

Project Manager at Lure Creative 2018-present

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 have been a board member of Prairie Ridge Elementary PTO for 6 years

I was president for 3 years and VP of Fundraising for 3 years.

I have been a teaching aide for the School of Religion at Sacred Heart Church for 6 years.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Without currently being a board member it is difficult to put a narrow focus on policy issues.

But here are three things I will advocate for-

Increasing communication between the school district, staff, and the community.

Diversity

Technical Education and Trade Skills funding and support

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 am always happy when funding for education is increased. But I will always wish for more funds to be included. At this point in time, it may be necessary for the Kansas Supreme Court to retain jurisdiction to make sure funding is maintained. I would not like to see a repeat of what happened in the past.

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 have seen various assessments over the years (my oldest is 16). I am not sure as a parent I can say what is the best accountability measure for a majority of students. I have to listen to the opinions of teachers and staff to form an opinion. They are the experts in this area. I would need all information before I could even begin to make that decision.

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)

Technical education and skilled trades are necessities and a great choice to offer to students. The school district through its two high schools has developed a great program that will be expanded upon. I think continuing and enhancing this program is key along with helping to take the stigma out of technical and skilled trade. The school district needs to make a huge commitment to educating parents and students on the benefits of this program and that there is something out there other than college for our students that can also lead to a rewarding and successful path in life.

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

Unfortunately, I think we will still be dealing with Covid and its variants for a while. With that comes divisiveness over what is the best and safest road possible for our students, staff, and community.

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

I am passionate about the public school system. I want to help this district reach its full potential and help positively impact the community.

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 volunteered on the PTO Board for Prairie Ridge Elementary school for 6 years. I was co-president for three of those years working closely with two different principals, staff and parents.