

# Blue Valley USD #229 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:13 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Gina Knapp

### 2. Candidate for Board Seat #

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### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 14101 EBY ST, -  
City/State/Zip : Overland Park

### 4. Phone Number

9134850749

### 5. Email Address

ginaknapp@hotmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

www.voteginaknapp.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

CFO youth development nonprofit

### 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.

none

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

I have worked in the public sector my entire career - from the Federal Reserve to nonprofits.

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

My top three issues are fully funding our public schools, enhancing our special education services, and focus on social/emotional learning and mental health coming out of the pandemic

### 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)

Operational funding is entirely too low and special education services have never been fully funded, crippling our ability to properly serve all kids at the level they are capable of.

**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 a tough one. I know testing is NOT the end all be all answer for all students and does not reflect all student success. I support testing as one component, but there needs to be more. I do not have the answer, but I know there are resources out there to assist in learning more.

**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)**

Partnering with trade schools and unions are a great start. High schoolers can many times get a good paying, skill building, summer job that can subsidize the workforce during the busy months as well. These are great paying jobs and pay massive dividends in the future for college bound AND non college bound students.

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

Continuing to evolve how we serve our special education students, particularly as it relates to literacy.

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

I believe Blue Valley can be more than the best school district in the state. We need to strive to be better. All students can be successful and we need to enhance our special services, while balancing the academic rigor our students are used to and the parents expect.

**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 worked in nonprofit youth development for nearly 15 years. I have 3 kids, one of which has special needs. I'm interested in enhancing our great district to be greater - not just interested in current events.