

Spring Hill USD #230 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:1 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Sharon Mitchell

2. Candidate for Board Seat

Position 5 Area 2

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 107 S. Madison Street

City/State/Zip : Spring Hill, KS 66083

4. Phone Number

913.568.3008

5. Email Address

skmitchellks@gmail.com

6. Campaign Website

NA

2. Candidate Background

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

June 2015- Present: Spring Hill Chamber of Commerce, President and CEO.

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.

Spring Hill Chamber: President and CEO since June 2015

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

Severed on the Spring Hill BOE for 2 prior terms

Active Member of Church of the King--Olathe

Spring Hill Rotary Member

Various PTOs, Site Councils and Booster Clubs

Various ex-officio committees (both Miami & Johnson Counties and statewide) with the SH Chamber position

Founding facilitator of Leadership Spring Hill.

3. Issues and Policy

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

1.) Seeing change with the KS funding to reflect the current year enrollments.

2.) Continuing to support local control.

3.) Minimize unfunded state and federal mandates.

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)

The current funding formula is better for our district than the block grants. We would still like to see the state aid per pupil paid on current year enrollments vs prior year which puts more fiscal unfair burden on local tax payers in growing districts.

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)

Standardized testing and accreditation are important and sufficient. I would like to see virtual schools separated from brick and mortar when looking at graduation rates as they relate to accreditation.

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)

Collaboration and communication between business and school districts are important. The school districts are key partners with business to communicate the types of jobs that are out there (career awareness), what types of jobs are developing, and what skills are necessary to succeed in them. Including instruction of relevant skills will help prepare students for future employment. We also need to continue to prepare students for higher education to keep training professionals that need one or more college degrees.

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

Managing growth--being proactive without getting too far ahead of ourselves.

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

I have served two terms and would like to serve one more to further build on our strong foundation and continue to make wise decisions for our rapidly growing district.

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 running unopposed, however, I have lived in the community for 25 years and have had 5 children go through the school system with our youngest preparing to graduate SHHS in 2022. I also have the unique perspective of working daily in the community supporting local business.