

Olathe USD #233 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:2 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Tiffany Seaman

2. Candidate for Board Seat

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3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 25356 W. 127th St.

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66061

4. Phone Number

9132231609

5. Email Address

tiffany@tiffanyseaman.com

6. Campaign Website

tiffanyseaman.com

2. Candidate Background

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

Grade 4 Teacher, Olathe Public Schools

Math and Reading Intervention Teacher, Blue Valley School District

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.

NA

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

Girl Scout Troop Leader, KS and MA

3. Issues and Policy

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

I will advocate to ensure that all teachers are provided with the knowledge, support, and resources in order to effectively support their learners. I will advocate for more communication and collaboration between district administration and teachers and families so that we ensure higher quality learning experience for all of our children. With every decision we make, I will encourage all stakeholders to ask ourselves, is this what is best for our students?

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)

According to the ruling, equity requires that "school districts must have reasonably equal access to substantially similar educational opportunity through similar tax effort." As an educator within KS, I do not see equity across schools and districts.

12. The K-12 education system requires accountability measures for student performance, focused on post-secondary success and career-readiness. Do you believe the District is meeting expectations for student achievement? (100 words or less)

I have spoken to members of the KS State Legislature and Dyslexia Task force, as well as to the ELA Coordinators and Superintendent and Olathe Board of Education about my concerns related to evidence-based literacy instruction. The district is looking into adopting curriculum that is not aligned to the science of reading and structured literacy, and therefore would not be aligned to the state regulations of providing structured literacy as required this upcoming school year. The district has admitted they still have growth to make.

13. Kansas is experiencing low unemployment rates and employers are struggling to find qualified workers. How do you see the school district helping to meet the business community's future workforce needs through work-based learning such as internships, training, and other career exploration opportunities? (100 words or less)

I believe the district has a strong support through their 21st Century Academy and Olathe Advanced Technical Center (OATC) to support training and career exploration opportunities.

14. What do you believe the takeaways for the District should be, if any, from the COVID-19 pandemic experience? (100 words or less)

The experience has given more insight into the importance of continued communication between the district and community. It has also provided insight into additional modes and flexibility of learning, i.e. through the use of technology. There is also more insight into the many responsibilities placed on educators- we need to continue to strive to provide additional supports for educators in order to provide the most supportive working conditions for our educators to truly ensure the most successful learning experiences for all of our students. This experience has opened our eyes to providing equitable learning experiences.

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

Through my literacy advocacy, I know the urgent need for knowledgeable leadership, evidence-based resources, and educator professional development in order to ensure that we are providing critical foundational skills for all students. As Susan Hall (2009) shares "If help is given in fourth grade, rather than in late kindergarten, it takes four times as long to improve the same skills by the same amount" (p. 2). The state reading and dyslexia guidelines should help us to focus on this.

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

Serving on the Olathe Public School District Board of Education would provide me with a great opportunity to serve our community and contribute positively to our district. I have been an educator for the past seventeen years, and want to ensure learning is a priority. I have a vested interest in the Olathe School district. I served in the district for ten years. I still have many students attending the district, many of the teachers are like family to me, and my own children now attend the district.

17. 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 see a great benefit in having an educator represented on the Board. I have a passion for education and literacy. I have served seventeen years in education in many different roles- early intervention, Special Education, Grade 1, Grade 4, Math and Reading intervention. I have first-hand experience with serving on curriculum committees, growing my knowledge through professional development sessions, and working with others on collaborative teams within both the Olathe School District, and other districts in Kansas. The decisions of the Board of Education have directly impacted my work as an educator, and this would provide valuable insight.