

# Gardner Edgerton USD #231 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:9 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

ROBERT SHIPPY

### 2. Candidate for Board Seat #

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### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 18520 Juniper Street

City/State/Zip : GARDNER

### 4. Phone Number

9132082612

### 5. Email Address

rmshippy@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

<https://www.facebook.com/ShippyUSD231>

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I work as firefighter full-time. I have also volunteered with Fire District #1 and Gardner Public Safety recently retiring with 23 years of combined service.

### 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.

I have attended chamber events over the years while serving on the BOE, but have held no leadership position in these types of groups.

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

I have served over 8 years on the BOE and have been on the following committees; Finance, Building, Technology, Legislative, and Negotiations Team that works to establish pay and benefits. I was on the interview panel for the Police Chief for the City of Gardner as well.

## 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. Continue to work towards maintaining and servicing our at risk and special needs students. The addition of the TRAILS house and adding Para educators, School Psychologist, and Social Workers, we have already started this work, but need to continue these efforts.
2. Continue to develop STEM programs that incorporate science, technology, engineering and mathematics along with further developing CTE Pathways/Programs. The ATC is the starting block for this work which was completed about 4 years ago.

3. Identify locations for the future facilities. The need for an additional elementary, early childhood center, and high school, is nearing.

**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)**

With the increased state aid per pupil in the funding formula, our district can address not only inflation, but can provide competitive salaries to attract and retain qualified staff. The district has been able to give raises and also return some frozen steps on the pay scale. The cost of healthcare is quickly trending upward so the funding formula helps with these critical budget line item as well.

**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 completely support the Kansas State Board of Education Mission: To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training, and character development according to each student's gifts and talents. It is important that we track all aspects of students' performance, job placement for our STEM and CTE students. Many students leave with certificate training that has prepared them for additional training and the work place. While serving we have had two schools recognized at a National level as Blue Ribbon schools. We have also had numerous administrators, staff, and students recognized for various achievements.

**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)**

The school district has already provided avenues for students to leave high school with medical and industrial certifications such as: CNA Nursing, Fire Safety, automotive, carpentry, culinary, ,and metalworking and business. These CTE Pathways/STEM Programs work towards this goal. It is a priority for me to continue that work as we evaluate what programming has interest among students and employers. We have also had great success in the computer class room as some of our students actively repair chrome books used by students.

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

Where do we build the next high school in 4 to 5 years as community continues to grow? We also must continue with a strong path that we have paved to be a competitive employer and continue to provide to services for our students. We are just at the start for addressing social emotional needs of students with the start of our collaboration with Johnson County Mental Health and other entities. My goal would be to continue to build and support these efforts at the next level.

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

I have served the past 8 years, and feel we have done great things to improve our school district in that time. We have increased teachers' and staff wages, also added staff and support staff positions to the classroom. We have added STEM and CTE programming, and are looking to obtain an early childhood education building to support and improve that program as well. These are not partisan goals and agendas, these are things that support our community, students, and staff long after I am no longer serving on the board.

**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 feel the idea that this is not a partisan position uniquely qualifies me. We all have our own thoughts and politics, but they must always be balanced by what is possible, achievable, and the best interest of school and community. This positions does not, to prevent you from making easy and popular decisions. Easy and popular decisions or embolden political agendas may take us directions that are not sustainable for our community, students, or staff. My family has lived in the community for three generations and attended USD#231. The success of this district and community remains my first priority.