# Blue Valley USD #229 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:14 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

**1. Candidate Name**

Lindsay Weiss

**2. Candidate for Board Seat #**

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**3. Address**

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 15909 Cody St
City/State/Zip : Overland Park

**4. Phone Number**

9132749619

**5. Email Address**

weissforbvsd@gmail.com

**6. Campaign Website**

weissforbv.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

Small Business Owner

**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)**

Board Advisory Committees:
Curriculum and Instruction (4 years)
Mental Health & Well-Being (2 years)

District Middle School Re-Design Committee

Braden's Hope for Childhood Cancer - Advisory Board member (5 years) and Home Tour Coordinator (4 years)

Junior League of Kansas City (10 years)

KC Hospice - Child Grief Group Lead

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

My overall goal (and reason for running) is to preserve our tradition of excellence in Blue Valley. This means:

1) Improving student performance in reading and math. Assessment scores across the country have declined -- ours less than others -- but enough that we need to understand why and have a plan to close the gaps.
2) Practicing fiscal responsibility -- being good stewards of the money given by the legislature and continuing to advocate for full funding.
3) Continuing to grow unique programs that set Blue Valley apart in the college OR career-ready space (CAPS, JCCC trade/tech partnerships).

## 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)

Public schools are the heart of a community. When the schools are great, the entire community benefits — even those that don't have kids in the schools. This 2019 court decision was a step in the right direction to ensure schools are funded, but even in 2021 we witnessed legislators trying to chip away at it using several loopholes. While we emerged mostly intact, this will be an ongoing battle and I will always be on the side that advocates for fully funding our public schools.

## 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)

We should welcome accountability measures like state/national assessments, ACT scores, graduation rates etc. When combined as a total picture they help us understand how we are doing -- and whether our curriculum is achieving its objectives.

Looking at the success of some of our non-traditional programs is also an important measure of achievement that may not show up on a test score. Blue Valley Academy, JCCC trade/tech programs, the 18-21 school -- matriculation from these programs is a huge win because they account for students that may not have scored well on a traditional assessment but found success regardless.

## 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)

Blue Valley is known for preparing students well for college. We also know that college is not for every student — and have made great strides in cooperative education partnerships that give our students valuable, marketable skills like fire science, welding and automotive technology. We also have a gem in our Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) program, which gives any student an opportunity to dig deeper in careers such as engineering, medicine and business technology. These are programs that set our district apart from others and continued focus and innovation are a priority for me.

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

I believe our greatest challenge is that we are so divided. We endured pandemic that no one could have predicted and there was no playbook on how to handle it well. Now that divide has grown deeper and more political as new issues arise.

Board elections are intentionally designed to be nonpartisan -- to put kids first, not political parties or agendas. I think the only way to bridge our divide is to elect representatives that care deeply enough to listen to all perspectives -- students, parents, teachers and taxpayers -- and make the best decisions for our kids.

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

With kids at all three levels (elementary, middle, high), I have spent the past 10 years volunteering to help make our schools the best they can be. From PTO/PTA leadership positions to Board of Ed advisory committees to specific task forces charged with major curriculum re-design and improvement, I've had "boots on the ground" in our schools. I'm running for the Board of Education because I think it's incredibly important that our representative knows the staff, knows the curriculum, knows the processes and knows the kids in our schools.

**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)**

Being responsible for the strategic direction of one of the largest school districts in the state is not for novice hands. Those who run for the Board of Education should have experience working in and for our schools. I have spent 10 years volunteering in and for our schools and I care deeply about maintaining our tradition of excellence.