

Blue Valley USD #229 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:7 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Christine White

2. Candidate for Board Seat

District 2, Position 5

3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 11301 W 125th Terrace

City/State/Zip : Overland Park, KS 66213

4. Phone Number

8168057191

5. Email Address

christineparkwhite@outlook.com

6. Campaign Website

<https://christinewhiteforschoolboard.com/>

2. Candidate Background

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

General Pediatrician in private practice.

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)

Girl Scout leader for 15 years.

3. Issues and Policy

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

Train every K-5 teacher in the Science of Reading and implement this method in our schools. BVSD has 21% of kids reading below grade level, and only 50% of sophomores are college and career ready.

Instill a love of learning to create lifelong learners. Show kids that science is important and amazing, why history matters today, how great literary ideas are timeless, and how math applies to their lives. LET teachers transfer their knowledge and passion to kids. Tests are important, but let's stop teaching to the test.

Keep social and political ideologies out of our curriculum.

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)

I am fine with the current state funding formula.

But in general, the argument that more money equals better educational outcomes is flawed. Kansas' per student funding increased from approximately \$7,000 to \$15,000 between 1998 and 2020. Inflation would have brought it to only \$10,500. Yet our reading scores for 4th and 8th graders decreased by 2% from 1998 to 2020.

Many states spend far less per student than Kansas, but perform significantly better in math and reading. Outcomes depend not only on how much money you have, but also how you SPEND the money.

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)

Our students take MAP tests, NAEP tests, and Kansas State Assessments on a predetermined schedule from Kindergarten through 11th grade. Knowing how our students are progressing in relation to our past scores, as well as nationally, is important. However, I do not support using classroom time to prep for, cram for, or teach to the test. Teach a good, solid curriculum using proven methods. Teach the kids HOW to learn while also providing content-rich materials. In schools that are taking this approach, the test scores are naturally climbing -- and students are thriving.

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 partnership BVSD has built with JCCC to earn certificates or associate degrees in a wide variety of technical and trade careers is outstanding. I would like these opportunities to be discussed in 8th grade so kids know there are alternatives to a 4-year degree program -- and can plan their high school schedules accordingly. The benefits to students in these careers are vast: the potential to earn money right out of school, no college debt, and a strong job market. These opportunities should be advertised, expanded, and celebrated.

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

The biggest challenge the school district faces right now is the disconnect between parents/families and those in charge in the district. Parents should be well informed of the plans, goals, and inner workings of the district -- from the top administration down to the details of their child's classroom. Parents should have a significant voice in how the district is run -- they are the taxpayers and the education offered is for their children. Our district must be a partnership of parents, students, teachers, and other personnel working together to provide a better educational product and better outcomes.

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

I want to change the way we teach kids to read so that every child has the foundation needed to do whatever they desire in life. I want to teach kids in a way that they become lifelong learners and continue to grow as adults and give back to their communities. I am hardworking, dedicated, and passionate and will do my best to achieve these goals for our children and teens. We have some challenges in our district, and the time to find solutions for them is right now.

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)

As a child, my parents called me "The Kansas Mule". If there was something that needed to be done, I would stick with it until it was done. If one way didn't pan out, I'd find another. I have lived my life with this attitude, and I will bring it with me to this job. I will leave no stone unturned to get done what needs doing. I may approach things in a new way that could ruffle some feathers -- but I will do it with respect, grace, and humility. The kids and teachers deserve nothing less.