

# Olathe USD #233 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:20 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Brian Geary

### 2. Candidate for Board Seat #

Olathe - 6

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 12061 S Troost St

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66061

### 4. Phone Number

9135264536

### 5. Email Address

bgeary@olatheschools.org

### 6. Campaign Website

www.geary4olathe.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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

I have been the Olathe Market President/Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending for Bank of Blue Valley for 9 years.

### 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 am a Centurions Leadership 2012 graduate of the Greater KC Chamber; Leadership Olathe graduate of 2009 through the Olathe Chamber, and served two separate terms on the Olathe Chamber's Board of Directors, including 2 years as Treasurer.

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

I just finished my first term on the Board of Education, served on the Olathe Public Schools Foundation Board, Treasurer of my church, coach of both youth basketball and soccer in the area, am the Johnson County Representative on the Community Advisory Council for the Health Forward Foundation,

## 3. Issues and Policy

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

-Teacher recruitment and retention (fewer joining the profession and there are battles for the good ones, including diversity within our staff)

-Social and Emotional Learning (including mental health supports) which develops good character, integrity and pride in students which transfers outside of school situations.

-Funding for public education that is both adequate and equitable for our students to make the most of their opportunities and for staff to utilize their knowledge to support the 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)**

I think the formula and its parts need to be constantly revised given our everchanging world in public education. The priorities of the public schools in Kansas, and the needs of its students and staff shift each year, so a constant formula that isn't at least reviewed with input from the stakeholders doesn't work. Additional funding that is used to benefit the community, and schools within it, is a positive if managed efficiently.

**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)**

It is very difficult to gauge the student achievement comparisons based on the past two years interrupted by a pandemic. However, our District continues to set records for post-secondary scholarship levels awarded, increasing the amount of market value assets, either credentials, college credit or entrepreneurial/real world experiences. Our students are achieving amazing things once they leave our walls and if those things are any sign of "meeting expectations", we are doing well. Our Strategic Plan outlines many new measurements of achievements that I look forward to seeing through as well in the future.

**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)**

Olathe was one of the first districts with career clusters educating through the 21st Century Academies. The incredibly high-quality people in the work community that assist these students through the Advisory Boards of the academies and/or offer internships is amazing. The opportunities that these open up for students, along with our Advanced Technical Center learning is second to none. Partnerships with companies such as Garmin and CommunityAmerica give real-world career opportunities while in high school.

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

Communication is very important from the District at all times. Not necessarily the info put out always, but the frequency that people expect to receive it and from who. In addition, the need to be flexible in learning methods and delivery platforms is essential. Many good things came out of the experience in helping bring these to light so we could make sure we are improving in these areas.

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

Over the next several years, I'd say it is hiring of teachers. Between the difficulty in getting into the field, fewer people enrolling in college education programs and aging current teachers, these shortfalls could lead to larger class sizes, less offerings due to lack of qualified teachers on the subject, or lesser qualified teachers if requirements are lessened to get into the profession.

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

I am just completing my first 4-year term and was able to help get many things accomplished in 2 1/2 years, but the past 1 1/2 years has been spent dealing with a pandemic. There are many things I want to continue to see through that had to be put on the "backburner" while helping navigate these times. I look forward to continuing to see the Strategic Plan through that our community helped develop and I look forward to handing my son (Class of '23) his diploma coming across the stage.

**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)**

Since I moved to Olathe in 1999 I have had the unique opportunity to serve on the Olathe Chamber Board to see how important good schools are to grow our economy and being a commercial banker puts me right in the middle of that. I also served on the Olathe Public Schools Foundation Board for 10 years (President for 1 year) seeing many needs that exist. I also have two African-American children that allow me to see a different perspective from many others. Lastly, I come from a family of teachers that helps me gain that perspective as well.

