

Candidate Name: **Kristin Schultz**

Candidate for Board Seat: **Position 5, District 2; Olathe School Board**

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Campaign Website: **kristin-schultz.com, www.facebook.com/KristinSchultzOlatheSchoolBoard**

Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less) Current: **Development Consultant, public media and campaigns. Past: Development Director, Jewish Family Services of Greater Kansas City.**

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. **Affiliate membership in the Lenexa, Olathe, and Overland Park Chambers of Commerce, through my role as a member of the Olathe Board of Education.**

Other recent political/community experience (50 words or less): Current: **Olathe School Board of Education. Past: Olathe Public Schools Foundation, board member; Jewish Community Relations Bureau/AJC, board member and vice-president; Jewish Federation of GKC/Women's Philanthropy, VP of Leadership.**

What are your top three education policy issues? (100 words or less) **For policy makers, I prioritize the retention of all public funds within public school districts; the improvement of access to mental health services to better support the mental health crisis our community is experiencing; and continuing investment in innovation designs through the Kansas Department of Education grant opportunities.**

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) **In the succinct words of Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, "The Gannon settlement calls for #ksleg to fund public education at an amount equal to our Montoy 2010 target goal, adjusted for inflation, and we won't get to that goal until 2023. We are currently still not at constitutional adequacy." I can't state it any better.**

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) **No. That's why we developed our Portrait of a Graduate and Strategic Plan. We'll be evaluating our progress toward meeting post-graduate benchmarks over the next five years so that we can measure and adjust for improvement in those areas.**

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)

The district's Portrait of a Graduate reflects the strengths and qualities our community values in a ready workforce. Our board is committed to graduates with at least one Market Value Asset, preparing them to enter higher education or employment upon graduation, reaching far beyond traditional academic measures to include:

- **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving**
- **Communication**
- **Creativity & Innovation**
- **Initiative & Self-Direction**
- **Social & Cross-Cultural Skills, and**
- **Resilience, Social & Emotional Well-Being.**

Our commitment to high academic expectations for all remains steadfast, but the inclusion of these skills is deliberate and in direct response to the needs of our local economy.

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

The board navigated through very complex decisions in a highly charged and ever-changing environment. I'm proud of the collegial relationships that our members maintain; even when members disagreed, it never became disagreeable. There was support for each other and for action outcomes. That provides stability for our superintendent, his leadership team, and the professionals who are meeting the needs of our students each day.

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

We are at a critical state with resources. We lack a robust supply chain of human and physical resources and access to mental health care in our community. The social, emotional, and behavioral health of our staff and students and their families affects every classroom and the potential for learning that exists there. These two things are intertwined, and solving one is essential to solving the other. It is critical to our success.

Why are you seeking this public office? (100 words or less) **It's important to protect the work being done by education professionals on behalf of our communities, and they have been under attack. I believe in local oversight, but not in the assumption that we are all suddenly qualified education professionals.**

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):

My opponent supports public funding of private schools. I do not.

Johnson County public school districts have been instrumental in economic growth of the county; we work with chambers, business partners and higher educational institutions to enhance life in our communities. Siphoning away public funds to schools with random standards, lacking public oversight and accountability is foolish and reveals his lack of understanding about the role of public education and the responsibilities of a school board member.

I've served the Board for two and a half years and on the board of the Olathe Public Schools Foundation for six years.