

Lansing Unified School District No. 469
School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Cheryl Runnebaum

1. Why do you want to be on the board of education and what has been your past involvement in our schools?

Our district is in a constant flux of change as we grow in population, socioeconomic status, ethnic dynamics, learning styles and numerous other areas. As Kansas City Kansas proper continues to expand with projects planned for the K-7 corridor in the next 10 years; Lansing will grow in size, demographics, economics, language, ethnicities; etc. As we grow, there are numerous challenges and barriers that Lansing will face. It will be necessary to create successful solutions in the best interest of our students, teachers and all support personnel.

I was a teacher for 18 years at the high school and post-secondary level. During my tenure as an educator I won the 2017 TEACH award at KCKCC for excellence in teaching; and the 2017 Suanne Rouche National Excellence in Education and Leadership award. I coached students in Baking and Culinary Arts, winning numerous state championships in both categories with many trips to the National Competitions. In August 2018, I was promoted to Dean of Career and Technical Education at KCKCC. All of my experience in education has focused on communities going through similar growth, challenges, and barriers.

I have a proven track record of success in meeting the demands and needs of diverse communities. The insight and experience I possess is unique and geared towards districts that are in flux. As the K7 corridor expands, Lansing will see continuous growth and change in our student population. As a board member of WIOA Workforce Board; the Workforce Solutions committee; and a committee member of Workforce, Education and Economic Development committee; I bring insight, data and resources to the Board that are beneficial in understanding the current and future projects that will impact our community.

My oldest son, Dalton, is a 2018 graduate of Lansing High School. He is an E3 in the Army stationed at Fort Lewis Mcchord in Tacoma, Washington. Derek, my middle son, began school in Lansing and transferred to Leavenworth in 2018 to follow his career pathway of JROTC (he leaves for Ft. Benning on June 15, 2020). My daughter, Danielle, is in the 7th grade at Lansing Middle School. Through my years in Lansing, I have coached all of my kids in sports; actively participated/volunteered in numerous school events/PTA throughout each child; participated on the Lansing Middle School Site Council; as well as donated funds and resources to various efforts in the district. I ran for

the School Board in 2019, placing 6th in a close race with Aaron Yoakum and Susie Werth.

I am excited to be on this board because I love Lansing and I love education. I am passionate and dedicated to the entire learning process. I understand the importance that every person plays in the education of our children, no matter their classification. My experience, past and current; bring insight, knowledge and strategies that are necessary for our district to meet and exceed the future growth. Twenty years of experience in education at all levels is what Lansing needs in order to navigate what lays before us in our expanding community.

2. *What role does the board have in supervising improvements in curriculum and instruction?*

Supervision is not the word I would use. In my opinion, oversight is a better descriptor for improvements of curriculum and instruction. Oversight and acumen would be provided through the creation of a Curriculum and Instruction Committee. This committee would include a board member who has experience in best practices within education that includes curriculum and instruction. A collaborative committee would ensure that all student learners' needs are being met through innovation and best practices. This committee would also provide documentation to the budget process each fiscal year, allowing for informed and fiscally responsible decision-making.

Due diligence is our responsibility to students, employees, and all other stakeholders to assure best practices are being utilized. Our educators are the experts; however, it is important that board members stay abreast of best practices, trends in education, and adaptation strategies to a changing population in order to make informed decisions. The Board is responsible for assuring our educational team has the necessary resources for educating our growing and changing population. It is imperative to be aware and supportive of our student dynamics, curriculum practices, best practices, and future planning for student success.

3. In your opinion, how much involvement should the board have in the preparation of the budget priorities?

The Board should have input in the budget process. This should come in the form of a Finance Committee. There are various models for a finance committee within a school district. It should be a collaborative committee that encompasses the Administrative staff at each building, a Faculty representative from each building, 1-2 Board members, and any others that are needed for a holistic representation of the district. The committee should review the entire USD469 budget to ensure resources are being utilized where they are needed most. Data should be ascertained, analyzed and utilized within the committee for more informed decisions. The committee would ensure proper allocation

of funding in a collaborative and transparent process that best supports the students. Lastly, The Board has been hired by the taxpayers of the school district to represent the district and employ the Superintendent. The Board is responsible to ensuring taxpayers their tax payer dollars are being allocated to best meet our students' needs.

4. *Do you think the boards of education should evaluate their performance annually and set district goals? Why or why not?*

Absolutely. Without goals, you do not have the guidance of where you need to go based on facts, data (qualitative and quantitative) and the input of all internal stakeholders. The school district should be setting their goals as a collaborative unit based on the Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan of the District. Each facility, division and department should also set their goals. Regular assessment of goals should be done to determine the progress and modifications, if any; of the goals.

The Board should have their own set of goals that are reflective of the district's goals and the districts Mission, Vision, and Strategic Plan/Priorities. Goals should be created for the long and short-term. You must know where you are going, how you are going to get there, a timeline, methods for assessing and revising goals, and reflection of the goals/results. Goals define your purpose. If you don't have goals, than where do you hope to go? Yes, goals are an absolute necessity if you want to be successful.

5. *Should the board have any day-to-day involvement in the operation of the schools? Explain.*

Day-to-day involvement is a very broad statement to make. This could mean participating in events/activities, volunteering; to the other end of the spectrum of overseeing personnel. In my opinion, the board should participate and be present within the community and schools.

Referring back to question number 4, a board that sets goals will immerse themselves into the day-to-day operations of the schools. The depth and breadth of that is driven by the goals and strategic plan. I can say for a fact, when KCKCC Board Members show up to events, classes, etc., employees and students get very excited. It shows that the board is more than a "yes" or "no" body; but demonstrates support and respect of the community they are voted to represent.

Lastly, by creating committees that are representative of the various employees, you create involvement that is collaborative and transparent. By the nature of goal setting, you create opportunities and support involvement at all levels within the school district.

In order to be effective, a Board must be more deeply involved in the various aspects that makes a school district successful. Just showing up to vote at board meetings is not enough. That is not a way to truly understand the everyday intricacies of an educational institution. In order for the district to continue on a path of success with the impending growth Lansing will see, it is necessary to be more involved and work in unity at all levels.