

Shannon has served as a board member on the USD 497 board of education since 2011. She has been active in education policy advocacy and leadership at the local, state, and national levels, including serving as the current statewide president of the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB). She has also worked with public schools as an attorney and policy specialist. She and her husband, Jason, a hospitalist, have three children, all of whom are current Lawrence Public Schools students.

LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION Member, 2011-present; President, 2014-15, 2017-2018; Vice-President, 2013-14, 2016-17

Committees: Policy Committee, 2011-Present; Facility Planning Committee, 2012-present; Public Incentive Review Committee, City of Lawrence, 2011-15, 2018-Present; Boundary Committee, 2017-18; Lawrence Schools Foundation Board Liaison, 2011-13; Site Council Board Liaison, Various Schools, 2011-present (3 schools each year)

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS President, July 2019-present, Nominating Committee, 2015, Region I Vice-President, July 2016-December 2017, President-Elect Designee, December 2017-June 2018, President-Elect, July 2018-June 2019,

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION Member, Policies & Resolutions Committee, 2018-19

LAWRENCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACILITY VISION TASK FORCE Member, 2010-11

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAWRENCE/DOUGLAS COUNTY Member 2011-present

YES FOR LAWRENCE Campaign Volunteer, 2013 & 2017

LAWRENCE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION Hearts of Gold Ball Planning Committee Member, 2014 & 2016

WESTWOOD HOA, INC. Member, Board of Directors, 2013-present

PTO VOLUNTEER Langston Hughes Elementary, Quail Run Elementary, West Middle School

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS
Keynote address, February 2019

“YOUTH AND RACE: WHAT IS YOUR ROLE?”, OREAD FRIENDS/ECUMENICAL CAMPUS
MINISTRIES Panel Member, March 2017

Presentations on a variety of school board topics and initiatives to community groups including Noon Rotary Club, classes of Leadership Lawrence, New Generations Society, Lawrence Board of Realtors, Lawrence Optimist Club, Lawrence Association of Neighborhoods, and Lawrence Chamber

Speeches at numerous district events including Lawrence High School, Free State High School, and Adult Education/Diploma Completion graduation ceremonies, Friends of Education recognition ceremony, and staff and new teacher welcome events

BAR ADMISSIONS

GEORGIA, 2000 (inactive); KANSAS, 2001 (inactive)

- What do you think is expected of as a commissioner/board member?

My role as a school board member is to **listen, learn, and lead**. These three things inform my collaborative work to establish a vision for our school district, which should be student-centered, based on community input and priorities, and guided by values of excellence, equity, transparency, and continuous improvement.

As an elected official, I seek out and welcome input from our community. The experiences of staff, students, and families help me to more clearly understand our district's successes and the areas we may need to work to improve. I learn from this input, as well as from the time I spend on continuing education activities related to my board responsibilities. I use this knowledge, combined with my experience and problem-solving skills gained from my training as an attorney, to collaboratively set goals for our board's work and lead our district to successfully implement our vision and meet the needs of our students and our community.

- What role your think policy plays in the functioning of your position?

Policymaking is at the very heart of the duties and responsibilities of a school board member. Good policy, created through well-informed, open, and transparent processes, will support the board's vision and the district's mission to help our students be successful in college, career, and life. Once the board has set policy, it is then the superintendent's responsibility to implement policy and manage the district on a day-to-day basis. The board provides oversight of this process through its hiring and supervision of the superintendent. For these reasons, in addition to creating a vision for the district and setting policy, the selection, supervision, and retention of the superintendent is one of the most impactful decisions that a board makes for a school district.

- What kind of relationship should a board member or commissioner have with the community (including parents and families)?

A good board member will be an active listener and accessible to the community and will be an advocate on behalf of students and schools with the community. Successful board work requires that a board member continuously seeks to form collaborative working relationships with parents, families, and the community at large. The needs of students in our schools demand that this collaboration occur—school districts working in isolation simply cannot meet all the needs of their students, needs that must be met in order for students to be ready to learn and succeed.

- What responsibilities do board members/commissioners have in regards to advocacy?

I have a responsibility to advocate for the needs of my district. This includes sharing my perspective on proposed policies and legislation affecting public schools—which is informed by my years of experience on the board—with legislators, state board of education members, and our congressional delegation. It also means working in collaboration with, and providing feedback to, fellow locally-elected officials and other community leaders and community members with regard to successes, challenges, programs, policies, or other issues that affect schools or our students.

The responsibility for advocacy also requires, on my part, a commitment to continuous learning and professional development. Board members must remain informed of issues impacting public schools at the local, state, and national levels. I have made this commitment and have actively pursued these learning opportunities, leading to additional professional development and leadership responsibilities within KASB and NSBA.