

## USD 232 Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire – 2025

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| <b>Name:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lucy Rumsey DeWitt |
| <b>1. Please list any previous elected or appointed offices you have held.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                    |
| Answer: In college I was president of my sorority                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                    |
| <b>2. What is your current occupation, and where are you currently employed?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                    |
| Answer: I work for MERCK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |
| <b>3. Please summarize your educational background.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                    |
| Answer: 2001 De Soto grad, 2006 BA Mass Communications - Baker University                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |
| <b>4. How long have you lived in the De Soto School District? Do you have school-aged children living at home? If so, what school(s) do they attend?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                    |
| Answer: I have 2 school aged children and we have been in the district for 10 years. Our daughter attends Mize and is in the 5th grade. Our son has dyslexia and dysgraphia and attends a private school specifically for language based disabilities. He will return to the district next year when he starts 7th grade. My family originally moved to the district in 1995 when I started LTMS. |                    |
| <b>5. Please describe your community involvement and activities.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |
| Answer: I was a funeral director for many years. I volunteer at school, field trips, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                    |
| <b>6. Why have you chosen to run for a USD 232 Board of Education position?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                    |
| Answer: I wanted to give back to the district that gave me so much and continues to give to my family                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                    |
| <b>7. How would you foster collaboration among stakeholders, including the Board, parents/guardians, school staff, students, and community members, to ensure that everyone's input is considered in the decision-making process?</b>                                                                                                                                                             |                    |
| Answer: I think always being open to change. Different opinions can always lead to trying something new or thinking about it in a different way. I would be willing to listen to all involved with an open mind to enhance the great work USD 232 is doing.                                                                                                                                       |                    |
| <b>8. When funding becomes limited, what are the highest priorities for USD 232?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                    |



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Answer: Teachers always need to be paid more. Other than pay, I believe it would be to ensure student preparedness. Whether that is going into the workforce, college, or military - students need to have tools to be successful.

### **9. What do you see as opportunities for improvement for USD 232?**

Answer: I think we need to be prepared for AI and how that will impact students and learning. We need to give teachers ample opportunities through professional development so that they may be fully educated on AI.

### **10. What ideas do you have for hiring and retaining high-quality staff?**

Answer: By demonstrating how well USD 232 works at all levels. From the board and Corey to principals leading their teachers. Ensuring a great teaching environment is key.

### **11. What could USD 232 do better to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all students?**

Answer: I think this goes back to the Golden Rule. Treat others how you would want to be treated. Being a student is about asking questions, finding your own beliefs, etc. We never know what unseen struggles people are going through. If we approach every person with kindness and acceptance of where they are in their journey - we will always succeed

### **12. What will you do as a Board member to ensure you have reliable information on which to base your decisions?**

Answer: I'm a big fan of critical thinking. I choose unbiased neutral sources to get my information, check against other sources, and then ask questions.

### **13. Is there anything else you would like to share with voters?**

Answer: I loved growing up in USD 232 and truly could not imagine a better place to raise my family. Thanks for all YOU DO!!!!!!

