

USD 232 Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire – 2025

Name:	Brandi Jonasson
1. Please list any previous elected or appointed offices you have held.	
Answer: School Board Member Position #6 2021-current Vice President, School Board 2024- current President, Grey Oaks HOA Board 2025-current Grey Oaks HOA Board Member 2023-current President, Prairie Ridge Parent Teacher Organization, 3 years Fundraising Chair, Prairie Ridge Parent Teacher Organization, 7 years	
2. What is your current occupation, and where are you currently employed?	
Answer : Owner/Project Manager- Lure Creative Digital Marketing	
3. Please summarize your educational background.	
Answer: I went to public schools from kindergarten through 12th grade. I have a bachelor's of science in English from Emporia State University.	
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?	
Answer: I have lived in the De Soto School District for 21 years. All three of my children started preschool at the district preschool and then attended district schools. My youngest child is a sophomore at Mill Valley High School. My oldest two graduated from MVHS in 2023 and 2025.	
5. Please describe your community involvement and activities.	
Answer: I was a member of Mom's Council at Sacred Heart Church when my kids were little. I also aided in Sacred Heart's school of religion classes for 7 years. I have volunteered in classrooms, chaperoned field trips, and organized classroom holiday parties. I have organized food and school supplies drives for community charity organizations through Prairie Ridge Elementary as well. I have helped with both my sons' Fifth Grade Farewell, and helped with my oldest's 8th Grade farewell. I co-chaired my daughter's Fifth Grade Farewell.	



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I have helped acquire community donation funds for Monticello Trails Middle School's Just Give It campaign.

Organized a junior class and senior class auction basket for the Mill Valley High School football team's annual golf tournament,

I have volunteered my time and homemade dinners for the Mill Valley Football team and coaches.

I have volunteered with my daughter's Girl Scout Troop.

I have volunteered at various community charities over the years, including Imagine Forever Ranch, Harvesters, The Giving Brick, Noah's Bandage Project, Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation and others.

6. Why have you chosen to run for a USD 232 Board of Education position?

Answer: I've served on the school board since 2021 and have been actively involved in our schools since my children were young—volunteering in classrooms, chaperoning field trips, and later serving as Prairie Ridge PTO president and fundraising chair. Seeing the dedication of our teachers and staff inspired me to run for the board so I could advocate for them and our students. Serving these past four years has been both challenging and rewarding. USD 232 is an incredible district, and I'm proud of the progress we've made. I'm running for re-election to continue building on that success and ensure every student and educator can thrive.

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?

Answer: I believe communication and transparency are the keys to successful collaboration. We need to leverage all forms of communication—social media, newsletters, and school board meetings—to keep stakeholders informed and engaged. It's important to encourage conversations and actively seek feedback from students, staff, parents, and the broader community through surveys and forums. We should always be partnering with local businesses and community groups that can bring in additional ideas and resources, strengthening our decision-making. We should also continually look for new ways to involve people and increase engagement with the district, ensuring everyone has a voice.

8. When funding becomes limited, what are the highest priorities for USD 232?



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Answer: Our top priority should always be maintaining high-quality teaching and learning. We need to prioritize classroom teacher positions, reasonable class sizes, and instructional resources. Our teachers are the most important factor in student success, so ensuring they have the support and tools they need is an absolute must.

Safe, secure learning environments are essential. Funding for school security, counselors, mental health professionals, and social-emotional learning programs should remain a priority even in when funding is low.

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

Answer: We should always strive to improve our district by seeking out new opportunities that benefit both students and teachers. Education is constantly changing, and we must stay ahead of it. Keeping up with advancing technology is essential to preparing our students for the future.

It is also important that we regularly review and update our course offerings to ensure they meet with the current needs and expectations of the job market. That way we can make sure our students have relevant, real-world skills.

For our teachers, we must continue to invest in professional development opportunities that encourage growth, creativity, and collaboration.

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

Answer: I believe in providing our teachers and staff with the highest pay raises possible each year and ensuring they have the resources they need to succeed. We also need to continue expanding professional development opportunities and work to increase tuition reimbursement and benefits to support their growth and well-being. We also need to continually ask teachers for their feedback and be open to making changes.

To attract new talent, we should continually build partnerships with as many universities as possible and foster strong relationships so they can help represent USD 232 in recruitment efforts. If potential hires could experience our schools, students, staff, and community firsthand, I'm confident they'd want to join us. Creating short recruitment videos and inviting candidates to visit our campuses would be great ways to showcase what makes USD 232 such a special place to work.

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



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Answer:

Every student deserves to feel safe, supported, and valued at school. A safe and inclusive environment allows students to focus on learning, build positive relationships, and develop confidence in who they are. That means taking care of not only physical safety through secure facilities and clear protocols, but also emotional safety by keeping a culture of respect, belonging, and kindness.

We need to continue promoting programs that support social-emotional learning, anti-bullying efforts, and mental health resources. The district also needs to continue to encourage and support new and diverse student led clubs.

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

Answer: I read my board packets thoroughly and ask a lot of questions before our meetings. I like to understand every side of an issue before making a decision. I am naturally curious and value multiple viewpoints. I listen carefully to the recommendations and expertise of those involved, and I research additional information online when possible. When needed, I seek input from students, staff, parents, and community members. My goal is to be fully informed before I vote, ensuring that every decision is thoughtful and well-considered.

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

Answer:

I have always been a strong advocate for public education—and especially for our incredible school district. Over the years, my time volunteering in our schools has been my way of giving back to the teachers, staff, coaches, and administrators who give so much of themselves to our children every single day. Their dedication goes far beyond academics; they help shape our students into kind, confident, and capable people.

Since my oldest child (now 20) first started preschool in USD 232, I have felt truly blessed to be part of such an exceptional district and community. The experiences my children have had here—inside the classroom, on the field, and throughout their school journey—have been life-shaping, thanks to the care and commitment of so many wonderful educators and staff members.

No matter how many hours I spend volunteering, it will never feel like enough to express the deep gratitude I have for what USD 232 has given to my family. This district has not only provided my children with an excellent education but also a strong sense of belonging and pride. I am committed to continuing to give back and to helping ensure that every family in our district feels that same sense of appreciation and opportunity.



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