

## Community Questionnaire for KSD School Board Candidates

1. Why are you running to be on the Kent School Board? Please describe your qualifications to be on the board.

I'm running because I see a problem, but I didn't see anyone really stepping up to work on resolving it! My qualifications are that I'm a concerned parent with two boys in KSD schools, and I want to ensure their education along with everyone else's is the best that it can possibly be. I'm a Marine Corps Veteran and 20+ year federal employee, I know all about working within a dysfunctional organization, operating and managing a challenging budget situation.

2. Please describe the extent to which you have direct experience in engaging with the KSD School Board and/or KSD committees/forums? For example, attending or viewing KSD School Board meetings, giving public comment, emailing the board/district admin. If you are a current Board Director, what was your involvement prior to being a Board Director?

I have only been involved the past two school years, when our oldest son entered Kindergarten. Let me tell you my introduction was abrupt when learning of all the difficulty the board had with civility and acting as a cohesive unit. Since making the decision to run, and when the interim position opened, I have followed much more closely. I have attended all meetings since I put my name on the ballot that didn't interfere with my prior engagements. Stepping in to Volunteer to ensure we had coaches for Kent parks youth soccer, has been my most recent endeavor with ensuring the children in our community have the best outcomes available in their opportunities.

3. What does the board need to do to regain trust and confidence within the community?

Work with the community, actually listen to the wants and desires of the community. Be more open and transparent with communication. Engage with building a better system and stop with the BS distractions.

4. A primary responsibility of the school board is to establish and oversee the budget. In your own words, what does it mean to "oversee a budget?" What is your understanding of school district funding?

To ask the tough questions, while being open and transparent with everyone involved. Tough choices will have to be made soon. As we've learned recently with the Federal Government withholding already allocated funds, no one wants to be in the dark when it comes to funding cuts. With future levies and bonds needing to be passed, as well as the proposed funding cuts over the next several years, the last thing we want, or need is to have staff feeling that burden and having to wonder where they stand. Finding productive and meaningful ways to pinch pennies, find savings and continuing to find and establish new procedures and introduce best practices to ensure we put the best product forward. Mostly again, to be open and transparent with the community as we ask to further fund the district and provide proper growth and maintain what we currently have.

5. Please identify the top 5 needs for the district. Over the next year, how do you want the board to work to address and meet those needs?

1. Gain and foster community support

2. Balance budget for proper growth and advancement, so when we ask for more money, we can show the receipts and say look at all the good we've done and are doing. Back to #1

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3. Be flexible, it's going to be a rough road until or even after mid-terms for everything education related, ensuring that the students and staff have everything they need to maintain and move forward.

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4. Reduce the number of lawsuits pertaining to education services being/not being provided, and amongst the board.

5. Fund outdoor camp and grow the product to make it more inclusive and available for all students to attend to their ability. We're very fortunate to live where we do, there are an abundance of opportunities out there, we need to find a way to harness them.

6. What are some of the best practices you've seen in other districts, and how will you work to bring things like that to life in KSD?

Being productive, setting personal differences aside, working towards a common goal. More citizen involvement, student and community led groups to keep the board focused and working on the actual task at hand.

7. As a Board Director, how will you involve stakeholders (parents, families, community members, staff, etc.) in the decision-making process?

Be involved, visit the schools, visit with staff and parents. Go anywhere I'm invited and actively listen. I'm not going to have all the answers, but I'm not afraid to listen and ask tough questions, have tough questions asked of me. I will work to see what is and isn't working. Be open to learning and changing what needs to be changed to be productive.

8. What steps should the board take to ensure the safety and acceptance of:

- a. BIPOC students
- b. LGBTQIA+ students
- c. Students of all religions

To actively engage, sit and listen to concerns. To find solutions when problems arise. To keep an open mind, to have the conversations that are needed. We need to lean into our rich diversity and grow collectively.

9. As a board director, what strategies and actions would you take and/or support to strengthen the partnership between families with Inclusive Education concerns and the district to guarantee concerns are promptly addressed, laws are being followed, and a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) is provided?

To fully immerse myself in the program, as a parent myself that has recently started through this process, there is so much to learn. My wife has been the main person handling this, and to see the burden of navigating the system that it has placed on her, there must be a way to simplify the process for everyone involved, on behalf of the parents and the staff equally. This will be a high priority, as I personally feel this is not something that the current Federal administration values as they attack human rights, education and healthcare.

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10. A primary responsibility of the board is to review, revise, adopt, and monitor the adherence to board policies. How do you think the board should balance the voice of the community with the voice of the district when revising and creating policies?

It's a delicate bridge to balance, but overall, what matters most is, are we doing what is best for the children? The hand that feeds you versus the people doing the work and balancing the priorities of the district in a productive way, so the best product is put forward.

11. What is the best way to address differences of opinion on the board, and between the board and school district administration?

To squash it before it becomes another ugly stain on the district. To be productive adults, have the meaningful discussion or discussions that need to take place. To work together, leave the pettiness to the dark anonymous corners of the internet. To be role models for the almost 26,000 students and their families.

12. 2 years ago, the KSD School Board passed a resolution opposing the BESS Project next to Mattson Middle School. What further actions, if any, do you think the board and district should take regarding the building of a battery storage facility next to a KSD school?

To press the issue, large scale industrial facilities belong nowhere near schools, let alone neighborhoods. History has proven that fact time and time again. Being a California Native, Marine Corps veteran and Forest Service employee, I've seen firsthand entire neighborhoods, towns, vast areas wiped out due to negligence, deferred maintenance or natural disaster. You can have all the safety nets, and countermeasures you want, but do students and staff need another safety drill added to their lives, or do you find a new location away from schools and homes.