

What background and experiences make you best qualified to serve on the school board?

Regina Garrett: I have experience managing large sales accounts through my past position. This role along with my work in customer service gave me the ability to interact with people with diverse needs and come up with viable solutions. In today's economy, I believe it is critical to have trustworthy stewards of our school district's tax dollars that are everyday people living alongside us. I have a child that requires an IEP and I found the support of Parents as Teachers as well as The Great Beginnings Early Learning program. With the IEP I have been very involved in the educational process each year to come up with individual educational plans by interacting with teachers, physical and occupational therapists, and special education teachers that helped my daughter improve her reading, math, and social interaction skills. I have forged many parent/teacher relationships with great teachers from multiple schools in the district and it's been a great partnership of support. I believe my involvement in and knowledge of the district's programs allows me to understand the diverse needs of our student body and their families.

Kathryn Campbell: I have been honored to serve on the LSR7 Board of Education for the past 3 years and as the President this past year and am excited to be bringing my experience and learning to the opportunity to continue board service for this next term. I've worked hard and obtained my Master Certification from MSBA and am currently working on my Distinguished Certification. I've expanded my governance learning through MSBA courses, reading books focused on board governance and learning from other board members across the state of Missouri. I've been working on a MSBA committee creating a new superintendent evaluation building on new DESE framework. I also bring strong leadership experience, a focus on understanding and focus on building relationships based on respect, championing change and ensuring the focus stays on our students and their educational opportunities

What would you like to see the school board do differently, and/or how would you like to see it build on its previous work?

Campbell: It's important that we continue to learn and grow in governance as a board – ensuring we're focused on setting our district's strategic direction, collaboration with the Superintendent, monitoring district and Superintendent performance, and engaging our community members and all of this with keeping our students at the center. This past year our board did a book study on board governance together which helped build our relationships and our focus on governance – I think it would be helpful to continue to find books that improve our collaboration and leadership. With MSIP6 and a new MO statute we have opportunities in this next year for board self-evaluation to identify strengths and opportunities as well as an opportunity to think about engaging community members and two-way communication opportunities – I'm looking forward to discussions and next steps as we move forward with these changes.

What are the top three challenges your school district is facing?

Garrett: One challenge I see is recovering time that was lost and getting our students caught up. I don't see it as impossible but I think we need to start by analyzing the areas that students are behind and implementing programs and policies that support achievement in these areas. Curriculums and supporting materials need to be extremely specific. Third parties that are not strictly focused on academics need to be reevaluated.

A second challenge would be getting all students access to specialized reading programs for students with Dyslexia and other reading deficiencies. One statistic is 1 in 4 children have dyslexia. We currently have 17,763 students enrolled in the LSR7 school district and only 46 students currently are in the second year of using the Wilson reading program. We need to have more teachers trained so that all students with reading deficiencies can have access to programs that increase their reading proficiency rates.

A third challenge is making the voices heard of all families and teachers. Coming up with solutions that make everyone happy can be a huge challenge. I would want to find common ground with constituents and have solutions that best address the district's educational needs while at the same time being good stewards of the taxpayers' money to get our school district back on top academically.

Campbell:

- I'm concerned about our staff – looking at competitive salaries, benefits as well as culture and climate ensuring our staff feels valued.
- I'm concerned about our students that are struggling. While I'm thankful that our district has worked hard to implement MTSS and it will be exciting to track our progress with this we also need to be focused and ensure that our students have the supports they need to be successful
- I'm excited about the Real World learning and career pipelines that are being built - I also want to ensure that we're thinking about scalability and growing these to broader impacts for our students

If elected to the school board, you'll be working alongside the other members and won't be able to take many official actions as an individual. Pick one of the challenges you mentioned in the last question. How would you work with your fellow school board members to make positive change on that issue?

Campbell: With any of these challenges - It's important to collaborate with our Superintendent, and our Administrators – relying on their experience and their expertise. There may be challenges when It's important to call for a committee ensuring we have broader engagement and input for research and recommendation. As Board Members as we need to evaluate recommendations and ensure we have data and information to make good decisions and that we are relying on our experts or committees to share data and recommendations with us – at that point in our discussions we also need to listen to each other for different questions

and perspectives hopefully coming to a consensus to move the district forward and always with the focus on what benefits our students.