

JCEA BOE Candidate Questionnaire 2020

Candidate's Name: Amanda Godlove

1. Why are you seeking a position on the Board of Education? List your experiences that are relevant to the position.

Equal opportunities and quality education for all students is a priority to me. The BOE position would enable me to take a more active role in ensuring this for the students of Jefferson County. Relevant experiences: parent, train volunteers and teach myself in children's ministry, as a district operations manager oversaw large budgets (18M+), evaluated expenditures, identified and remedied areas of unnecessary or excessive spending. Also identified areas where fraud was being committed by an employee.

2. List and explain briefly the top three goals/ issues you feel the BOE should address.

Ensure equal opportunity for all students to be successful after graduation. By presenting a multitude of options for higher education, trade training and job opportunities without stigma so students can feel good about selecting the career path right for them.

Training for teachers, aides, administrators and service personnel in areas they request. Both in person and virtual training (establish easily accessible portal on the website with training and resource materials on requested topics). Creation of liaison position to provide additional support for teachers, aids and service personnel.

Increase transparency/ improved communications between BOE and residents in the county. Establish an easy to locate section on the website to update residents on the status of current bonds. Explanations of how/ where the money is being used. Opportunity from this portal to leave feedback and or ask questions of the representatives as not everyone can attend the BOE meetings. Hard copies of this information would also be available to pick up at the BOE office for families without computer/ internet access.

3. The JCEA is comprised of both professional and service personnel. How do you view your role/ relationship with the JCEA in improving the educational system of Jefferson County.

My role is to act as a liaison between members and the board. To be available to listen to concerns, receive input on solutions and bring them to other board members and the superintendent. The best ideas and solutions are going to come from those working with and supporting the children/ schools. Those individuals will also be the ones first to identify potential pitfalls and problems with current procedures/ policies.

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4. How do you plan to foster transparency and support the Board of Education, school employees and the community?

Add a portal to the website to contain: notes and recordings of BOE meetings, regular updates about what is going on in the school districts, any new procedures/ policies/ technologies that have been implemented. Section on bonds that shows what recent bonds have passed, money received from them and how it's being spent. Full budget posted as well for review. Hard copies of the content would be available for pick up at the BOE office.

5. List/ explain the top three budgetary goals/ issues that should be addressed to plan and execute closing the revenue gaps in future JCS budgets.

I would need to do a careful review of the full budget to evaluate accurately where money is being spent and determine where operational inefficiencies exist. I have not had the chance to do the deep dive required to accurately answer this question. My previous position with Lifetouch I took over a district which was 60K in the red in the first 6 months of the fiscal year. That year finished with a profit and in three years my district was responsible for 1/3 of the divisions' entire profits (total of 11 districts). I am experienced in looking at and creating budgets and am confident the county can benefit from my experience.

6. How do you plan to ensure transparency between the Superintendent/ Central Office Staff and School Employees.

Implement dedicated liaisons for the teachers/ support staff and service personnel. These liaisons sole jobs would be to provide support to the employees, to ensure their concerns are brought to the correct individuals in the central office/ superintendent and to aid in the flow of communications between individuals. Too often valid concerns of employees are not addressed and or left unresolved. The liaisons job would be to aid and ensure the follow through. Teachers, aids, and service personal should be heard; their needs better met. They are the foundation of our education system.

7. In recent years there has been an increase in students suffering from both emotional and physical trauma. The efforts to meet the needs of these students have overshadowed the needs of the overall school population. Teachers are regularly forced to stop instruction and enact safety protocols which negatively impact a positive learning environment in the classroom.

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Teachers must be given the tools and resources they need to teach all their children, those with special/ unique needs and without. One child's needs should not supersede another's. Resources need to be allocated for additional aides and training provided to them on protocols to ensure they can quickly, adeptly and safely resolve situations as they occur, with minimal disruption to the class. The teacher should not be the only person equipped with the training and skills to address these situations. This does require an investment of funds and should be a priority when looking current and future budgets.

8. List and explain your direct experiences/ contributions with the Jefferson County School system to date.

I have attended BOE meetings, participated in the PTO at South Jefferson Elementary. I've volunteered at their quarter auction and most recently through my photography company did photos with Santa at their Christmas celebration. Each child was provided with a complimentary 4x6 photo of them with Santa that day.