

Jefferson County Board of Education  
JCEA Questionnaire for Candidates  
2020

\*Please Limit your responses to no more than 50 words per numbered question.

Candidate's Name: Mark Osbourn

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

I believe in public education and I want Jefferson County to have the best school system possible. I have been a Board of Education member for 8 years, a principal for 23 years, and a teacher for 15 years. I have 46 years of experience.

2. List and explain briefly the top three goals/issues you feel the BOE should address.
  - a. School safety and security for our staff and students.
  - b. Monetary raises and benefits for our staff so we can hire and retain high quality personnel and keep them.
  - c. Propose a date for the Excess Levy vote and pass the Excess Levy.
3. The JCEA is comprised of both professional and service personnel. How do you view your role/relationship with the JCEA in improving the education system of Jefferson County?

I view my role/relationship with JCEA to be a very positive one. I have worked with and in some of their positions and I am aware of their challenges. I value the input from our professional organizations. I feel JCEA plays a vital role in our system. I was an officer in various positions of the JCEA when I was a teacher, so I value and support their input.

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

I feel it is very important to be transparent with our employees. Our system needs to bring our professional organizations to the table for an open flow of ideas. It is very important for the system to work as a team with input from all those involved.

Candidate: Mark Osbourne

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.
  - a. Propose a date and pass the Excess Levy.
  - b. Continue to be frugal with our money and always look for ways to spend in a smart fashion.
  - c. Work with the state of West Virginia to enhance funding in counties with growing populations.
6. How do you plan to ensure transparency between the Superintendent/Central Office Staff and School Employees?

We, as Board of Education members, need to be sure that the Superintendent/Central Office is open and honest with all the employees that are on our staff. I feel this is one of my responsibilities that needs to happen consistently.

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 overall school population. Teachers are regularly forced to stop instruction and enact safety protocols which negatively impact a positive learning environment in the classroom. How will you as a board member support a school environment that focuses on the needs of the many as well of the needs of the few?

We are developing a Social and Emotional Support team (SoMo) that will provide support to the wellbeing of students and staff. As schools go back to the new normal trying to meet the social and emotional needs of these groups will be important than ever. SoMo will also provide Professional Staff Development to support understanding and implementation of methods to best serve the students we serve today.

8. List and explain your direct experiences/contributions with the Jefferson County Schools system to date.
  - a. I have worked very hard to maintain school allocations at their present level.
  - b. I have worked as a BOE member to enhance and maintain benefits and pay raises for our employees.
  - c. I have worked to purchase 250 acres of land for future schools for the next 20 years at no cost to the public.

\*Please return by April 13, 2020, in the enclosed addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you.