

1. What life and professional experiences do you bring to this position? Please explain how these experiences would influence your work.

My professional experiences at work and in the community have prepared me for the work of a school board trustee both at the organizational and strategic level and interpersonally. I am an Operations Manager at Shine Insurance and a proud member of the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce. In my role, I develop, implement, and analyze all operational policies and guidelines for our company as well as assess our growth directives while maintaining the highest standards for customer service. Navigating conflict resolution and creating highly organized systems on a broad scale, are skills that I utilize every day, and I'd bring those things to the table with me.

My work in the community, on boards and committees, as PTO president, and as a mother would also impact my work. Over the last decade, I have served on many boards and committees and been fortunate enough to have been selected for several leadership programs including Leadership Bloomington, The Emerging Leaders Project, and Hoosier Women Forward. Each of those roles educated me further on how to work with diverse groups of people.

And I've carried that learning into my work as a PTO President as well. As a parent of two children, I have a vested interest in public education, and I'm regularly engaged with a wide array of individuals who are all committed to public education. Being connected to our schools through my children and the PTO allows me to keep my finger on the pulse of what's happening with our school community.

Because of these experiences I have learned how to collaborate with others, navigate through conflict resolution, create highly organized systems that are easy for all to follow, and develop empathetic listening skills. All these experiences have me prepared me well to be an effective and productive member of the Board Trustees.

2. What connection can be made between higher quality education and higher quality of life?

When students have access to higher quality education, their health outcomes are much higher. They are more likely to find higher-paying jobs, make healthier choices, have greater social-emotional awareness, have better mental health, and can effectively advocate for themselves and their community. These things and more help shape healthy, happy adults. When society commits to providing high-quality (and equitable) education for children, everyone has a higher quality of life.

3. What can be done to and ensure students are career-ready?

Continuing to recruit and attract diverse teachers and staff will have a positive impact on career readiness for MCCSC students. This generation of students will be the most diverse yet. In turn, public education can be good stewards in fostering this awareness by hiring teachers that reflect their classrooms. Without explicitly recruiting diverse teaching talent, we are leaving our students underprepared. Teachers can spark innovation and creativity in our students so the higher range of experiences that they bring to the district will impact the range of choices that they

envision for themselves after high school. The district has a great asset in Hoosier Hills Career Center which gives students access to over 30 different types of employment to learn. Most, but not all the career options available there are geared towards students who choose to enter the workforce after graduation. For those going onto college, the district needs to continue to ensure our offerings out of high school meet the demands of the college tracks our students are choosing.

4. Our schools should place greater emphasis on equity – so that all students receive the resources they need to graduate prepared for success. Please explain whether you agree or disagree with this statement and how you would address equity in access to education.

I agree with this statement. MCCSC has started to roll out their Strategic Plan which is largely based on addressing equity as well as diversity. I am excited to see this unfold, and I know the Board Trustees and School Administration worked very hard to make equity central. If elected, I will continue to support these priorities, especially where it concerns access for our priority populations, hiring more diverse staff, and working to decrease the disparities in discipline among students.