

School Board Candidates Questionnaire May 2020

Responses are shown in the same order as candidates will appear on the ballot.

Jen Lanning: Three-year term.

Q1

What is your name?

Jen Lanning

Q2

How long have you lived in Lathrop?

My family moved to Lathrop when I was 4 years old and I've called it home ever since.

Q3

How many kids do you have? How many in Lathrop Schools?

My husband Chad and I have 3 children, all currently attending school at Lathrop.

Q4

3 Year Term

Are you running for a 2 year term or 3 year term?

Q5

Briefly tell us about your educational background.

I am a graduate of Lathrop High School and have completed my Associates Degree from Metropolitan Community College.

Q6

Why do you want to be on the Lathrop School Board?

I am hoping to gain a better understanding of how the business side of public education operates as I serve and help find the best solutions for situations concerning our children.

Q7

What do you believe makes a good board of education?

A good board would include people who are from different backgrounds who can work together to support the success of our students.

Q8

What do you feel are the 3 most important responsibilities of a BOE member?

One important responsibility of a board member would be to assist in creating and upholding the policies that are set into place. Board members also need to be available to serve when needed, including attending meetings and events held to further their understanding. Another responsibility would be for them to take time to gain wisdom about issues that concern the school district.

Q9

Does the BOE manage or govern the district and what is the difference?

The district is governed by the school board. It is responsible for holding the superintendent and staff accountable for their decisions and actions.

Q10

What do you see as some of our district's greatest accomplishments?

Lathrop has many areas that would give us reasons to boast, but the accomplishment I am most proud of at Lathrop Schools is they way we have been taught and continue to teach the value of community and togetherness. There is rarely a need that is not met with in our district and it has been such a gift to watch the school and community work together for the success of each other!

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

What would you like to see improved in district programs and policies?

Q12

What do you feel is the most important thing for the school board to consider when making a decision?

The best interest of our students should be the most important thing considered. I think that whatever we pour into our students is what we will reap in the future.

Q13

How involved should individual school board members be in the daily operation of the district?

The schools do not need board members to check in on them daily. I do think a board member should be involved more than one meeting a month, and more often if problems begin to arise. Day to day operations are entrusted to the faculty and staff.

Q14

When a parent contacts you with a complaint about a teacher, how will you handle it?

I would encourage parents to communicate with teachers first to work out conflicts and then include the principal if not satisfied. It is important for the board however to know if problems to not get a good resolution for the student.

Q15

If you are elected to the school board, what is the first thing or program that you would like more information about? Why?

I am interested to know more about the policies we have in place. The policies are the foundation of the school board and what we use to govern the district. It is important to know what they are.

Q16

Why should the people vote for you for school board?

Because I represent a part of the community that no one else on the board represents. I am a mother of students and can bring that aspect to each issue. I have been attending board meetings for several years and am ready to invest in our schools.

Darrell Morgan: Three-year term. Did not complete the questionnaire.

Gary Dowell: Three-year term.

Q1

What is your name?

1. Gary Dowell

Q2

How long have you lived in Lathrop?

2. Since March 2013

Q3

How many kids do you have? How many in Lathrop Schools?

3. One daughter, who is attending Lathrop Schools

Q4

3 Year Term

Are you running for a 2 year term or 3 year term?

Q5

Briefly tell us about your educational background.

5. I hold a diploma in electronics Technology and an Applied Associates of Science Degree in Computer Systems/Networks from Indian Hills Community College; as well as a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Missouri.

Q6

Why do you want to be on the Lathrop School Board?

6. I feel strongly about giving back to the school district in the community in which I reside. I believe I am able to encourage and promote a healthy dialogue as it relates to the decision(s) surrounding the Lathrop R-II School District.

Q7

What do you believe makes a good board of education?

7. I believe communication is the number one thing that makes a good Board of Education. By fostering a healthy communication channel, this allows the Board of Education to come together and bring ideas to the table in an effort to move the district forward in providing a quality education to our children

Q8

What do you feel are the 3 most important responsibilities of a BOE member?

8. a) Serving as an advocate of the community and for the students and the school board
b) Establish the vision and goals for the school district
c) Be mindful of policies and procedures, local, state, and/or federal statutes that may impact the work/mission of the school district; along with evaluate and implement policies that may positively impact the work of the schools within the district
d) Adopt and maintain the annual budget that is aligned with the school district.
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Q9

Does the BOE manage or govern the district and what is the difference?

9. School districts are local governments with powers similar to that of a town or a county, including taxation. It manages the affairs, personnel and property. The Board of Education establishes policies and evaluates the outcomes of district operation. Superintendents identify needs and policies, develop regulations, provide leadership, and manage the day-to-day operation of the district.

Q10

What do you see as some of our district's greatest accomplishments?

10. One of the most greatest accomplishments the district has achieved is being able to make a change in the way the education format was being delivered in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many other entities, this change was brought on sudden as a result of the events occurring throughout the world. By being able to adapt from a classroom setting to a virtual learning environment overnight; and the leadership and staff collaborating to make sure our children continue to receive a quality education; shows true teamwork and dedication.

Q11

What would you like to see improved in district programs and policies?

Ensure opportunities to combine college preparatory academics with technical training and workplace experience

Q12

What do you feel is the most important thing for the school board to consider when making a decision?

There are a lot of important things to consider when making a decision. It is my belief that communication and collaboration with other school board members and the superintendent will lead to a solid foundation towards student achievement; along with help the students reach their goals, and improve their performance. In addition, this will also lead to a unified Board of Education and effective governance.

Q13

How involved should individual school board members be in the daily operation of the district?

13. I feel that an individual should be fully committed to serving on the board, but it is also important for the individual to understand the differences in the roles between the Board of Education and the superintendent. The Board governs and the superintendent administers the school district. With that understanding the board and the superintendent can collaborate and communicate in a positive manner, which will in turn drive the school district towards their vision and being successful.

Q14

When a parent contacts you with a complaint about a teacher, how will you handle it?

14. First and foremost, I'll listen to their complaint. I would be responsive and receptive to parents. Once I have the information, I would subsequently communicate with the superintendent and other board members and collaborate on how the issue can be resolved.

Q15

If you are elected to the school board, what is the first thing or program that you would like more information about? Why?

15. If elected, I would want to know what programs are successful and what programs are under achieving. Those programs that are underachieving, How can they be improved? How are they being measured. The overall objective is to strive toward excellence.

Q16

Why should the people vote for you for school board?

16. My efforts as a board member would center on serving all of the children in the community. By working together with all stakeholders in the community, staff, and other board members, we can all share knowledge and have satisfaction knowing we have provided the educational needs of the children. With those goals in mind my involvement as a board member will help students as they move forward in their endeavors

James Martin: Three-year term.

Q1

What is your name?

James Martin

Q2

How long have you lived in Lathrop?

44 years

Q3

How many kids do you have? How many in Lathrop Schools?

2

Q4

3 Year Term

Are you running for a 2 year term or 3 year term?

Q5

Briefly tell us about your educational background.

Grew up in Lathrop and graduated from here.

Q6

Why do you want to be on the Lathrop School Board?

Want to do my part to make sure school and community continue to prosper. Want this to be a desirable place to live and believe school is an important part of that.

Q7

What do you believe makes a good board of education?

Someone that is willing to listen to all that are affected. Listen to teachers, employees, students, parents and community as a whole.

Q8

What do you feel are the 3 most important responsibilities of a BOE member?

Setting direction of district.

Ensure accountability to community.

Being an advocate for students and community.

Q9

Does the BOE manage or govern the district and what is the difference?

Govern.

Govern is to set guidelines and set forth goals and policies.

Manage is to oversee daily operations and to carry out policies in place.

Q10

What do you see as some of our district's greatest accomplishments?

Keeping teachers for a long time.

Providing a safe place to educate our children.

Keeping class sizes small.

Providing nice facilities for our students to learn and excel in.

Q11

What would you like to see improved in district programs and policies?

Continue to raise our standards for learning. Continue to tutor those that need it and provide support for all employees when needed.

Q12

What do you feel is the most important thing for the school board to consider when making a decision?

Students

Q13

How involved should individual school board members be in the daily operation of the district?

Only to stop in to say hi or maybe to help serve lunch or help students getting to buses.

Q14

When a parent contacts you with a complaint about a teacher, how will you handle it?

Board Candidate Questionnaire

Would tell them need to take it up with teacher first, then building principal, then superintendent.

Q15

If you are elected to the school board, what is the first thing or program that you would like more information about? Why?

Project Lead the way. I think stem programs are the way to go.

Q16

Why should the people vote for you for school board?

I lived here all my life. Had two kids go through whole school system and two more to go. I care greatly about our community and what nothing but what's best for our students, staff, and community as a whole. I just want to do my part to serve community that help make me what I am today.

Aryk Sandridge: Two-year term. No longer wants to run, but too late to remove his name from the ballot.

Andy Noll: Two-year term.

Q1

What is your name?

Andy Noll

Q2

How long have you lived in Lathrop?

Eleven years.

Q3

How many kids do you have? How many in Lathrop Schools?

I have two kids with both enrolled at the High School.

Q4

2 Year Term

Are you running for a 2 year term or 3 year term?

Q5

Briefly tell us about your educational background.

I have a bachelors of science degree in Civil Engineering.

Q6

Why do you want to be on the Lathrop School Board?

I want to continue the previous six years of effort and continue to provide my opinions in dialog with the other board members and administration while we strive to improve the district.

Q7

What do you believe makes a good board of education?

A good board of education listens to each other, the administration, the teachers, the students, and the community in the process of making decisions that will impact all of them.

Q8

What do you feel are the 3 most important responsibilities of a BOE member?

The three most important responsibilities of board of education members are setting short and long term goals of the district, providing fiscal oversight, and holding administration accountable for progress on short and long term goals.

Q9

Does the BOE manage or govern the district and what is the difference?

The board of education governs the district by setting policy and goals of the district and then providing oversight to help accomplish the goals and comply with the policies.

Q10

What do you see as some of our district's greatest accomplishments?

The districts greatest accomplishments are physical improvements to all buildings, providing new educational opportunities such as "Project Lead the Way" and the "CAPS" program while still providing opportunities for all students to find a spot where they excel.

Q11

What would you like to see improved in district programs and policies?

The district had completed many physical improvements in the past years and the board of education and administration needs to establish a new capital improvement program. The district also needs to ensure that effective educational opportunities are available for college bound and vocational bound students.

Q12

What do you feel is the most important thing for the school board to consider when making a decision?

The impact upon the students and the community is the most important thing to consider when a decision is made.

Q13

How involved should individual school board members be in the daily operation of the district?

School board member involvement in daily operation should be at the request of the administration.

Q14

When a parent contacts you with a complaint about a teacher, how will you handle it?

I will listen and make sure I understand the complaint and then guide the parent through the district's policy of first discussing the issue with the teacher and if no resolution is found escalating the issue to the principal. If discussions with the teacher and principal do not resolve the issue then discussing the issue with the Superintendent and ultimately with the full board of education.

Q15

If you are elected to the school board, what is the first thing or program that you would like more information about? Why?

As any parent will tell you no two children are alike and mine are no different. One son is on a vocational career path and the other son is likely college bound. I want more information to ensure we are providing exceptional opportunities for both vocational career bound students and college bound students.

Q16

Why should the people vote for you for school board?

I hope my past six years of service have proven that I take all input into consideration when difficult decisions are deliberated and advocate for decisions that are for the best of the students. I hope this is why people will support me for the board of education.