

Dr. William "Bill" Church
4605 Corinth Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64506
March 12, 2015

Debbie Consolver, Board Secretary
St. Joseph School District
925 Felix Street
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Dear Ms. Consolver:

Please accept my candidacy for the open position on the St. Joseph School District Board of Education.

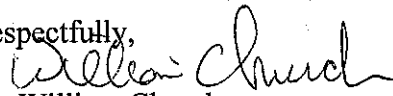
I am a professor of English at Missouri Western State University, where I have taught for 25 years. In many years of teaching students who came through the SJSD, I have taught under-prepared students who needed developmental work before attempting mainstream classes as well as Honors students who entered college with their freshman year nearly complete through AP and dual-credit courses. Through students' essays, I have gained meaningful and sometimes painful insight into all the factors that affect their academic performance.

In addition, I have two children and three grandchildren in our district's schools. By reviewing homework nightly, I hold an immediate connection to the classroom. I understand the challenges our teachers pose and the ones they face. Also, in my role as professor, I have authored curricular proposals that had to receive the approval of numerous committees all the way to the Missouri Coordinating Board of Higher Education. I understand curriculum, goals, outcomes, and grading.

I do have a history of community and campus service. When I lived in Andrew County, I served on the Andrew County Extension Council. For my service, I was added to the Extension Leaders Honor Roll of the University of Missouri. On campus, I have been three times elected to our Faculty Senate, on which I remain an active member. I understand the demands of serving in an elected position.

I realize that I am seeking to represent our community's needs at a crucial crossroads. Because I have so many family members enrolled, because I have so many friends and former students now teaching in the district, and because in the university I see both the strengths and weaknesses of our current system, I am willing to invest my time and energy. My goal will be to redirect misused resources back into teaching materials, libraries, and updated classrooms so that we might regain the respect and trust of rightfully wary parents, voters, teachers, and businesses.

Respectfully,


Dr. William Church