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What is the biggest issue facing JCPS right now, and how would you address it?

I believe the biggest issue facing JCPS right now is the lack of external oversight. The district has been conducting its own internal investigations and determining "no wrongdoing," and the Board of Education has been turning a blind eye for far too long. Case in point, a JCPS mandatory reporter and I brought examples of child predators in a prominent JCPS high school to Dr. Pollio in December of 2019.

In January of 2020, I presented that same information to the entire BOE, including submitting said evidence as part of the official minutes. That same high school continued to face reports of misconduct toward students by staff. Charges against a JCPS employee in 2023 revealed through open records a decades-long history of red flags that only led to more evidence of potential wrongdoing, complicity, and coverups.

As a member of the JCPS Board of Education, I will call for independent investigations of the internal processes, and exhaustive and restorative community hearings to not only seek justice for the victims, but put an end to the culture that permits — even encourages — dangerous and unlawful recruiting and grooming of our children.

What specific changes would you push for at JCPS if elected?

In addition to exercising the Board's responsibility to lawfully prosecute those who have known about the atrocities we've brought to their attention only to turn a blind eye or worse, I want to bring in alternative revenue through legal channels, such as going after the deep pockets of the political opportunists and predators that have been siphoning funds away from our children for decades. I don't believe Jefferson County property owners should continue to subsidize JCPS until there has been transformative change from the top down, so my plan also calls for the elimination of property tax.

This is not to say I do not support fully funded schools. I ABSOLUTELY DO! However, I believe district and state leadership, as well as outsized outside influences, have created a situation that is untenable, so to continue to pour good money into a cracked foundation is irresponsible. As a member of the JCPS BOE, I will push for reform and new beginnings.

What is your connection to the district?

I ran a stakeholder advocacy group called Dear JCPS for over a decade. My youngest son also graduated from the Academy at Shawnee in 2016, went on to receive his commission from the US Naval Academy in 2020, and is now an active duty Marine

serving our country. My visibility in the district also makes me a trusted point person for victims, especially child victims of sexual assault at the hands of adults responsible for their care. My tax dollars are being wasted on secret settlements, legal protection of predators, and exhaustive diversions and coverups, so as a taxpayer, I also want to see property tax eliminated, at least until the leaky sieve is closed.

What relevant experience in education do you have?

I have been a PTA mom for decades, as well as an educator in a private rural Kentucky school where my children attended grades 4-8. I am also a proud public school graduate. Our children participated in eight different school systems in four states, so we've seen what works and what doesn't. I also became immersed in policy development over the years, as part of a necessary effort to redirect or soften harmful legislation that disproportionately targeted JCPS students, educators, and taxpayers, such as the charter school bills, and now the unconstitutional SB4.

What relevant business, budgeting or financial management experience do you have?

My marketing background has been useful in promoting struggling schools in order to attract a more diverse and engaged school community, building PTAs from scratch, spearheading successful rallies and marches with clear messaging and deliverables. I worked on Wall Street for many years, directing the marketing departments for national financial services firms. My extensive corporate background has proven useful in recruitment, development, negotiations, contracts, project planning, and execution.

JCPS has faced major budget challenges. What would you do to improve financial oversight and rebuild trust with taxpayers?

Until those responsible for these budget mishaps are identified and held accountable, the remaining conversations about how we improve oversight and rebuild trust are an exercise in futility. After multiple attempts at open records requests came back empty, I have asked WFPL reporter Jess Clark to look into how much in settlement money is paid to child victims of sexual assault, as well as in defense of implicated employees and protection of process, especially at the administrative level. All the while, the district has a history of denying due process to victims, mandatory reporters, witnesses, and whistleblowers.

Instead of setting an example out of those who commit crimes against children and making sure processes are examined and locked down so it doesn't happen again, it would appear there have been efforts to make these criminal allegations go away quietly. Every internal investigation for the last two decades needs an outside review,

and those found responsible for fraudulent or blatantly self-preserving criminal behavior should face harsh punishments and their pensions should be surrendered.

Putting an end to some of the worst offenses will send a message that our district's tax dollars are not a slush fund for predators and their protectors, and those convicted of doing so should not continue to be bankrolled for the rest of their lives on our dime.

How would you measure whether the superintendent is doing a good job?

Until there has been fundamental change in culture, and those who have been willfully responsible for the harm and neglect are identified and removed from power, any measure of performance of the superintendent is merely performative. However, one measure of doing a good job is making sure the children with the greatest needs are safe and protected. As far as I'm aware, concerns involving recent abuse of non-verbal autistic children in the district remain unaddressed to the community's satisfaction, so I would give low marks in this regard.

I also believe it is important to promote and hire from within so that those responsible for steering the ship are familiar with our city's unique history and challenges, and that is a measure of the Board of Education, not the superintendent. Therefore, I give the Board of Education the lowest marks of all. Their failed oversight is not the current superintendent's responsibility; in fact, it's the opposite, and any effort to claim otherwise is a distraction.

The board's failure to authentically address root-cause issues is primarily why I chose to run for JCPS School Board in District 3 four years ago. After my board member became adversarial when I advocated for our most marginalized students and employees, I knew what I had to do. Then, as lawmakers continued their unconstitutional attacks on JCPS, overriding the governor's veto of SB 4, I filed to run again in June. That same board member resigned suddenly a week later, leaving a vacancy on the Board.

What do you believe JCPS should do to improve student achievement?

JCPS needs to empower school communities to meet the children where they are, shower them with praise in safe and challenging learning environments, and provide educators with tools and supports to build a lasting foundation that lasts a lifetime, deepening that reach into the community, not just at school. Bullies need to be inconvenienced more than their victims, especially when those bullies are the adults. Remove barriers, provide nutrients and sunshine, and watch them grow!

Is there anything else you want voters to know about you or your campaign?

District 3 voters should choose who serves them, but a recently filed ballot challenge may take that opportunity away. I currently DO live in District 3, despite my former board member's claims to the contrary. In addition to remaining on the Nov. 3 ballot, I have also applied for the vacancy created by my former board member's sudden resignation. Because I am calling for accountability of those currently or recently in power, it is highly unlikely I will receive the appointment or continue to survive the current ballot challenge. However, win, lose, or draw, I want the voters in the entire JCPS district to know I am fighting for accountability and transparency, just as I have done for the past 14 years, and I won't let self-serving politicians stop me from sharing what I've witnessed and experienced all these years