

Kimberly Ann Vinegar

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

The most urgent issue facing JCPS is the budget. Addressing it requires time, transparency, and thoughtful decision-making — not rushed, district-altering choices. I believe the board must hold as many focused budget meetings as necessary to fully understand our options and their impact.

We also need to listen to the people closest to the work: school-based leaders and teachers. They see firsthand where resources are being used effectively and where adjustments could be made.

While finance is not my area of expertise, I would support a tax referendum. JCPS provides essential programs and supports that directly impact student success, and we should not eliminate initiatives that are working. At the same time, we must explore additional solutions. I would support reducing the work calendar by five days for employees who are not classroom-based and conducting a careful review of central office staffing to identify opportunities for greater efficiency.

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

My first priority would not be to immediately change things. There is a great deal of strong, effective work happening across JCPS that the public rarely sees. I want to start by highlighting what is going well — the practices being implemented with fidelity and the passion our educators bring every day.

From there, I would focus on improving transparency. When families and community members understand what the district is doing and why, trust grows. Transparency naturally leads to greater honesty, accountability, and community investment.

What is your connection to the district, and what relevant experience in education do you have?

I am a newly retired (2025) JCPS employee with 28 years of service in multiple roles. I have been a special education teacher, general education teacher, special education consultant, special education administrator, and Section 504 Administrator. My husband, Robert, also retired from JCPS in 2024 from the Activities and Athletics Department. Both of our sons, Bobby and Isaiah, are proud JCPS graduates.

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

While I do not claim to be a finance expert, I have a strong understanding of how schools are funded and the regulations that govern spending. I also understand the importance of not using temporary funding to create long-term obligations. I am committed to doing the research, consulting with financial experts, and dedicating the time needed to make responsible, informed financial decisions.

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

See my response to Question 1.

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

Test scores are only one piece of a much larger picture. A meaningful evaluation of a superintendent should include feedback from the schools they lead. If principals, teachers, and staff feel supported, understood, and equipped to meet student needs, that is a strong indicator of effective leadership.

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

Student achievement begins with students feeling safe, supported, and cared for. We must address basic needs — food, clothing, housing — and expand access to mental health supports both at school and at home. Our Family Resource Centers already play a vital role in connecting families to these services, and we should continue strengthening that work.

We also need to invest in high-quality academic programs and give them time to take root. Too often, we move on to the next new initiative before fully implementing the one we already purchased. Consistency and fidelity matter.

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

I want voters to know that I am running for this seat because I care deeply about the students of JCPS and the future of our district. After 28 years of service, I have seen the good, the bad, and everything in between. I have worked at every level and in at least 75% of our schools. I understand how JCPS operates — and where improvements are needed.

I am honest, direct, and committed to integrity. If someone asks me a question, I will answer it truthfully, not based on what I think they want to hear. I am also a listener. I will listen to the concerns of District 4 residents, respond to them, and bring their voices to the board.

If voters want honesty, experience, and a genuine commitment to students, I am the right person for the job.