

William E. Snawder

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

I believe that the biggest issue facing JCPS is the district's financial stability and the public trust surrounding that. I would address this by increasing communications surrounding the finances including all budget decisions. I would also want to ensure that our spending is aligned directly to student outcomes. I am a strong believer that money spent needs to have a return on investment in the form of student achievement. I would also want to review administrative and operational costs for efficiency and see where additional cuts could be made without jeopardizing student success.

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

I have three main changes that I would push for. The first is financial accountability. One way I would want to see that happen is by connecting large expenditures directly to measurable student outcomes. In short, if we spend X amount of money on XYZ, I would want to see actual increases in student outcomes because of XYZ. If we don't see those increases then XYZ would need to be reviewed and likely cut from the budget. I would also like to see some type of interactive platform where the public could see where those expenses are and how they are directly increasing student achievement. The second change I would want to see is rebuilding community trust across the district. One way I would like to see this happen is by increasing the level of communication coming from the board/district directly to the public. We need community involvement and input to ensure that we are building layers of trust within our communities. One thing I have promised to do if elected is ensure that I am out in the schools and communities as much as possible to make sure that I am getting true genuine feedback from those I will be serving. The third change I would push for is shifting our focus to our individual schools and making sure that they have the resources needed to be successful. I would protect classroom resources. I think so many times we talk about JCPS as a whole and how the district is struggling, but often times fail to look at individual schools and correcting those issues one at a time.

What is your connection to the district?

I am a JCPS parent. My oldest daughter just completed early childhood and is now going into kindergarten this fall. I am also a JCPS graduate, Fairdale High School class of 2018. I am also a community member that is involved in projects to help students that are most in need of support.

What relevant experience in education do you have?

As a former Center Director for Mathnasium, I dedicated time to teaching children that were enrolled in our Math tutoring programs. The amazing thing about Mathnasium is that the student to teacher ratio is so small that we were able to see tremendous outcomes for a lot of kids. That is one of the reasons I have such a passion for education, seeing those student finally grasping math concepts that they originally struggled with. I also worked as a substitute teacher and SAL coordinator in NAFCS.

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

As a general manager for VP Louisville LLC, I oversee business operations, budgets, and manage our finances on a day to day basis. In my role as a Center Director for Mathnasium, I did the same but for a handful of different Mathnasium locations.

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

I answered this a bit in question two. One thing I would add to my response above is that I think we need to make the district's finances easier to understand. The majority of the public may not have experience in financial management so it is hard to truly understand all of the information being presented to them. I think if we break it down into easily understandable bits of information that the community can have better oversight and trust into the finances of JCPS.

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

I believe a superintendent's success can be measured as "good or bad" by directly measuring district outcomes. If student achievement is increasing, if successful financial management is taking place, and if we are retaining and supporting our educators, then I would say those are three of the top ways to determine a superintendent's success.

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

I believe strengthening student literacy and math instruction in the primary grade would be huge for student achievement. If we can set students up for success early on then hopefully we can continue those successful patterns in the later grade levels. I also believe we need to retain and empower our fantastic educators. Teachers need to feel valued and supported. Lets take out the admin burdens that are placed on them, and

lets focus on supporting them with real professional development options and real hands on support. I also believe transparency and accountability around student achievement needs to be increased. More conversations with teachers, students, admins, and parents need to take place sooner on to ensure students aren't falling behind.

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

I am dedicated to ensuring that JCPS becomes the school district that my children and ALL children in JCPS deserve. I will be involved, I will be asking questions, and most importantly I will be responsive. So many times I have heard people say that they have reached out to their board members with no response. I will also be available to serve those that are in need.