

Robert Kahne

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

The biggest issue in every school district is, and should always be, ensuring student growth. This is a very easy thing to say – but it is difficult to measure whether or not it is happening. It is my hope to find an effective system which all pieces of the JCPS community can support so that in a few years, we can look back and effectively determine which of our strategies are working best.

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

While the district is back on the path to financial sustainability, we must take a hard look at what we gave up to achieve that. Recent service reductions were in response to budget realities, but we cannot cut our way to becoming a great school system. If we removed programs or resources students need to succeed, or if recent changes to start times or transportation are not serving us well, we need to find a way to return to a system that works better for all of us.

What is your connection to the district?

I graduated from Manual High School in 2005 and attended Meyzeek Middle School and Hite Elementary School. My daughter will enter Bloom Elementary as a Kindergartner in the fall. I care about the district because generations of my family have been educated there. I have at least 13 more years of “skin in the game” and hope to have many more.

What relevant experience in education do you have?

I have a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the University of Kentucky's Martin School, where I studied education policy in addition to public budgeting.

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

In addition to my educational background in public budgeting, I have twice chaired Highland Community Ministries, a non-profit with a budget of about \$4 million. I also founded and operate an LLC.

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

JCPS must operate with more transparency and responsibility. I believe rebuilding trust starts with clear expectations. Much of that work starts with an active and attentive school board. If given a budget with a structural imbalance (as was presented in 2021 and 2022) I promise to ask the hard questions about why, and set expectations about what that means for future budgets and operations.

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

The most important way I will measure the superintendent is by listening to the people working with students – first and foremost the teachers and staff, but in addition the principals, school administrators, parents, and students themselves. While we should never dismiss results seen in hard metrics, the qualitative input from the people actually working with our kids to ensure student growth will be my most important metric.

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

I believe the most important improvement we could make is to find a framework for evaluating our efforts that has buy-in across the spectrum of JCPS stakeholders, so we can honestly evaluate the efforts we are currently employing.

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

Please visit kahneforschoolboard.com to see more of my plan, or send me an email at robert@kahneforschoolboard.com if you have comments for me