

Bob DeVore

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

If I had to identify one issue, it would be restoring financial accountability while keeping the focus on student achievement. JCPS cannot provide the best education for students if it continues to face budget shortfalls, a lack of financial transparency, and declining public trust. The district has been dealing with a projected \$188 million budget deficit, and independent audits have pointed to weaknesses in financial oversight, governance, and long-term planning. Here is how I would address it:

- Restore fiscal responsibility. Every taxpayer dollar should be tied to student success. I support line-by-line budget transparency, independent financial oversight, and regular public reporting so parents and taxpayers know exactly where money is being spent.
- Protect the classroom first. Before reducing teachers or student services, I would review administrative spending, outside contracts, and operational costs. Students and teachers should be the top priority.
- Focus on academic excellence. Reading, writing, and math must come first. Every budget decision should answer one question: *Will this improve student learning?*
- Increase parental involvement. Parents deserve a stronger voice in decisions affecting their children's education, from budgeting to school programs and long-term planning.
- Plan for the future. JCPS needs a responsible multi-year financial plan that prevents future deficits while ensuring schools remain safe, well-staffed, and academically strong.

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

If elected, I would focus on five key areas.

First, financial accountability. I would push for line-by-line budget transparency, regular independent financial reviews, and public reporting so taxpayers can clearly see how every dollar is spent.

Second, academic achievement. I want JCPS to return its focus to reading, writing, math, science, and career and technical education. Student success must be the priority.

Third, teacher support and school safety. We need to retain quality teachers, provide safe learning environments, and ensure classrooms have the resources they need before expanding administrative spending.

Fourth, stronger parent involvement. Parents should have a meaningful voice in major decisions affecting their children's education. Open communication builds trust and leads to better outcomes for students.

What is your connection to the district?

I am a longtime community member, retired U.S. Navy veteran, retired UPS employee, former civil servant, and former McCreary County Board of Education member. Throughout my career, I have been committed to public service, mentoring young people, and supporting education through community involvement. While I am not a current JCPS parent or employee, I bring years of leadership, budgeting, and governance experience, along with a commitment to ensuring every JCPS student has access to a safe, accountable, and high-quality education. My focus is on serving the students, parents, teachers, and taxpayers of District 5 with transparency and integrity.

What relevant experience in education do you have?

My education experience includes serving six years on the McCreary County Board of Education, where I helped make decisions on school budgets, policies, facilities, and district governance. I also have approximately 100 college credit hours toward a business degree, which provided me with a strong foundation in business, finance, and management.

In addition, I have served as a Sunday School teacher and have spent many years mentoring young people through community organizations, including coaching elementary-age basketball. My leadership experience in the U.S. Navy, civil service, and

UPS gave me practical skills in budgeting, personnel management, planning, and problem-solving that are directly applicable to serving on a school board.

I believe effective school board members should combine sound financial oversight with a commitment to academic excellence, transparency, and putting students, teachers, and parents first.

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

I have extensive experience managing budgets, operations, and personnel throughout my career. I served 24 years in the U.S. Navy, where fiscal responsibility, planning, and accountability were essential. I also worked in civil service and retired from UPS, where I held leadership responsibilities that included safety, operations, and team management.

In addition, I served six years on the McCreary County Board of Education, where I helped oversee school district budgets, policies, and financial decisions. I have completed approximately 100 college credit hours toward a business degree, providing additional education in business and financial management.

Throughout my career, I have learned that every dollar entrusted to a public organization belongs to the taxpayers and should be managed responsibly. As a JCPS Board member, I will advocate for transparent budgeting, careful oversight of spending, long-term financial planning, and ensuring that resources are directed first to student learning and classroom needs.

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

JCPS must restore public trust by demonstrating transparency, accountability, and responsible financial management. Taxpayers deserve to know how every dollar is spent, and every budget decision should support student success.

If elected, I would advocate for line-by-line budget transparency, regular independent financial reviews, and clear public reporting so parents, teachers, and taxpayers can

easily understand the district's finances. I also support developing a multi-year financial plan to prevent future budget shortfalls rather than reacting to them after they occur.

Before considering cuts that affect classrooms, I believe JCPS should carefully review administrative spending, outside contracts, and operational expenses to ensure resources are being used efficiently. Every major expenditure should be evaluated based on whether it improves student learning, supports teachers, or enhances school safety.

My experience serving six years on the McCreary County Board of Education, combined with approximately 100 college credit hours toward a business degree and leadership experience in the U.S. Navy, civil service, and UPS, has taught me the importance of responsible stewardship of public funds.

Rebuilding trust starts with honesty, transparency, and accountability. My commitment is to ensure that every taxpayer dollar is managed wisely and that students, teachers, and classrooms remain the district's highest priority.

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

I believe the superintendent should be evaluated using clear, measurable goals—not politics or personalities.

First, I would look at student achievement, including improvements in reading, writing, math, graduation rates, and career and college readiness. The superintendent should demonstrate that students are making measurable academic progress.

Second, I would evaluate financial management. The superintendent must present balanced budgets, improve financial oversight, and ensure taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly and transparently. Major budget deficits and poor financial controls should not become the norm.

Third, I would measure school safety and operations. Every student and employee deserves a safe, well-managed learning environment with reliable transportation, effective communication, and efficient daily operations.

Fourth, I would assess teacher and staff retention. Recruiting and retaining qualified teachers and support staff is essential to student success. A positive work environment and strong leadership should help reduce turnover.

Finally, I would consider public trust and accountability. The superintendent should communicate openly with parents, teachers, employees, and the community, listen to concerns, and provide regular updates on district performance and progress toward established goals.

The Board of Education should set measurable annual performance goals and conduct objective evaluations based on results. If those goals are consistently met, the superintendent is doing a good job. If not, the board has a responsibility to require improvement and hold district leadership accountable.

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

Improving student achievement starts with focusing on the fundamentals. Every student should leave JCPS with strong reading, writing, math, and critical thinking skills that prepare them for college, careers, or military service.

First, I would prioritize early literacy and math proficiency. Students who fall behind in the early grades often struggle throughout their education, so we must identify learning gaps early and provide targeted support.

Second, I believe we should support our teachers by ensuring classrooms have the resources they need, reducing unnecessary administrative burdens, and providing high-quality professional development. Great teachers are the foundation of student success.

Third, I want to strengthen my career and technical education. Not every student will attend a four-year college, so JCPS should continue expanding pathways into skilled trades, apprenticeships, military service, and other career opportunities while maintaining strong college-preparatory programs.

Fourth, I believe parents should be active partners in their children's education. Better communication and greater parental involvement help improve attendance, behavior, and academic performance.

Finally, every program and budget decision should be evaluated by one question: Does this improve student achievement? If it doesn't help students learn, we should reconsider how those resources are being used.

My goal is to help every JCPS student graduate with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to succeed in life.

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

I have spent my life serving others—as a 24-year U.S. Navy veteran, retired UPS employee, former civil servant, former McCreary County Board of Education member, coach, Sunday School teacher, and community volunteer. Public service has always been about putting people first.

I am running for the JCPS Board of Education because I believe our students deserve the very best education, our teachers deserve support, our parents deserve a voice, and our taxpayers deserve transparency and accountability.

With six years of experience on a school board and approximately 100 college credit hours toward a business degree, I bring practical leadership, budgeting experience, and a commitment to responsible stewardship of public funds. I will ask tough questions, listen to the community, and make decisions based on what is best for students—not politics.

My priorities are simple: improve student achievement, strengthen financial accountability, support teachers, increase parental involvement, and restore public trust in JCPS.

If elected, I will work every day to ensure that every decision is guided by one principle: **putting students first while being a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars.**