

2021 School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Responses from Kyle Scholl

Briefly tell us about yourself and what motivates you to run to be a member of the School Board.

I was born in California and moved to Juneau when I was 8 years old and pretty much have lived in Juneau for 30 years now. My wife is named Rikki, My son is named Brayden who is almost 5 and a daughter named Preslee who just turned 2. My kids motivate me in every aspect of life and I want to make sure they are raised right and they have the best life possible.

What do you see as the major issues facing the School District and how will you address these issues during your term?

For me growing up and playing sports was very important part of my life. We need to focus on getting the sports programs the support they need so they can run properly and help teach kids respect, discipline and teamwork.

How do you rate public education in the Juneau School District, and how do you believe the public rates it?

The teachers I know personally are great people With big hearts and would have to rate it a 4 out of 5. I know things have changed a lot since I was in the JSD and my son is just starting out in the JSD and so far from what I have seen and heard from the community is mixed feelings on the education department. I feel some parents are losing hope and If elected I would spend more time getting to know the teachers and parents. I would even take part in the courses if allowed.

Who do you contact when you need to gather information concerning education issues?

I have some close friends who are teachers and admin in the JSD who I have talked to about issues and concerns.

What other public or private agencies would you collaborate with when making policy decisions for public education?

U.S. Department of Education, Teach to Lead as well as any local agency in Juneau that would support the JSD.

What do you identify as the top diversity issues affecting student success in our school district, and how would you address them?

I think it starts with the parents. Kids need the parents to help them with making the right choices in life. There are so many Parents out there who neglect their children and the kids need to engage at home with the parents which includes help with homework and any issues they might have in their personal lives. My parents were always involved with school and sports and I'm thankful for that every day. We need to give the parents support as well and reach out to them to see what they need.

What type of professional development do you support to ensure employee growth and success among teachers and support staff?

I think we need to get our teachers and supports staff as much help that they need. The job of a teacher is like an extension of parenting almost. They are doing what the parents can't and that is getting our kids ready for the real world. I stand with all teachers, counselors, therapists and aides and we need to focus on what they need and want to help them succeed. We should look at programs that offer teachers additional training and assistance in helping achieve any goals they have.

Do you support public employee unions, collective bargaining, and the right to strike? Why or why not?

I do support all of that to a certain extent. I believe we need to be fair and make sure our teachers and staff are taken care of. If there is a strike then I'm sure there is a good reason and we need to take that seriously and look at the whole picture.

Do you believe teachers in our school district are fairly compensated? Explain

Since the 80's pay has dropped dramatically and now with price of goods going up I think they should be compensated with more pay or benefits.

Do you believe the support professionals in our school district are fairly compensated? Explain.

The support staff plays a very important role with our kid's and they should also be compensated with more pay or benefits.

What do you see as the role of School Board as it relates to the day-to-day operations of the district?

I believe the role of the board is to give as many tools and support to JSD teachers and staff to make their jobs easier. I also think the School Board needs to reach out to parents and staff and check in with them and find out issues and concerns that might be bothering them.

As a school board member, what will you do to ensure effective communication between the School District and Borough Leadership?

If elected I would work closely with them and try to build a better Juneau for the kids. The drug use in Juneau has been horrible and the programs from when I was a kid have decreased. We need to work together to give the kids things to do to keep them busy and help them grow into fine young adults.

In light of the state's finances and cuts to education funding, what would be your priorities for cutting and/or maintaining the budget and programs provided by our school district?

I know the budget is a hot topic right now and I think we need to maybe take a look at some things and see what we can do to either get more money for programs or see who might be interested in volunteering to help keep certain programs running. Education to me should be top priority in the budget.

What is your approach to attracting and retaining quality education employees?

We need to give them the support they need and probably want. We need to make sure we are offering as much training as possible and making sure they have everything they need to succeed in teaching our children. We can look at possibly adding an incentive program if one doesn't exist already.

Which member of the current school board most represents your views, and explain why?

I'm not familiar with their views. I can tell you that there are issues and concerns that I would bring to the table that hasn't really been addressed or handled very well.

How well do you feel the current school board has addressed the issues pertaining to education in the world of Covid-19? What do you see as having been successful, what would you change?

Covid-19 has definitely made it a challenge for everyone. I think they are trying to do what's best for the kids. The mask policy needs to be addressed immediately. There are other health risks that we need to worry about for our kids that involve the mask. The idea of making a vaccine mandatory also needs to be looked at and talked about more and not just rush to make a decision without talking to all parents.

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Information concerning your campaign: a. Who is supporting your campaign? b. How much money do you plan to spend? c. What means of campaigning are you planning to do?

I'm taking an untraditional route in campaigning. I have a huge support group. I don't plan on spending a lot of money or getting a lot of donations from people. My plans are to use social media, face to face conversations with the community and a little advertising.

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