



KRSI Russell Radio Election 2021 Candidate Questionnaire

1. What is your name and what position are you running for?

My name is Crystal Waymaster, and I'm running for the USD407 School Board.

2. Talk briefly about your work experience; public service and private sector.

While I have a wide array of work experiences and a long work history, together I think these attributes make me a great candidate for the USD407 School Board position.

I hope that my past educational and work experiences can bring new ideas and approaches to the issues and challenges in Russell County. I have worked as a cosmetologist and esthetician for 20 years, while owning and operating my own salon and spa since 2010. I understand the dedication and drive it takes to make a business function, and I feel that I could bring my positivity, creativity, and management skills to this community. While in college, I had the opportunity to play both basketball and softball, and I know first hand how to be a team player and work together in a group

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setting. Along with my Cosmetology License, I also have two associate degrees, and a bachelor's degree from Wichita State University in Business Administration, with minors in accounting and management. I put my business degree to use by helping manage and run three companies while I lived in Wichita. Some of my job duties included: payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, office manager duties, collections, personal assistant, and group meetings and communications with other department managers to complete tasks and projects. I pray that my vast and diverse work experiences can assist USD 407 to grow and succeed.

3. Why are you running for this position?

The reason I am running for the school board is easy: I want to help make Russell great again by getting involved in our community and assisting our leaders in finding solutions for our school system. After moving from Norton to Russell at age 12, I quickly learned how different things can be from district to distinct in rural Kansas. I

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went from being an older student in a K-6 elementary school, to being among the younger students in a middle school...bigger class sizes, having showers/locker rooms, more focus on competition and sports, etc. I grew up here from age 12 to 19, and I greatly enjoyed my experiences at both Ruppenthal Middle School and Russell High School. I loved my teachers and coaches, and I truly enjoyed the town's community spirit and pride that was shown constantly for both academics and athletics. With that being said, I feel as though that hasn't been the case in point for quite a while now. Since moving back to Russell in May of 2018, I have heard mostly complaints about all realms of our school system, and it's heartbreaking. I think it's time to listen to the community, the faculty, and the students to determine what their concerns and issues are...what is it that they need and want? How can we help them thrive and be successful? These should be our main goals.

If I am elected to the school board, I certainly hope we can work together in finding the right answers and taking the proper steps to get things accomplished. Our

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main focus needs to be on the students and the teachers--both their health and safety have to come first. I'm hearing comments from our community that the past leaders had lost focus on the foundation of our school system, and for 20+ years we have continued to neglect the proper updates to our buildings; and therefore, we now have tons of expenses that need to be addressed thoroughly and properly. We also need to find a way to attract teachers and coaches; find individuals that truly want to help western kansas thrive and not just be a stepping stone towards their next adventure. We need to come together as a team, not just a panel of board members, and put a strategy into place to help our district rebuild, grow, and strive! These are my goals if I am elected as a member of the school board. Because as a parent, I understand first hand that my child is soon going to be running in the hallways of these 4 unkempt school buildings, spending 6+ hours a day in an inefficiently heated/cooled classroom, while trying to focus on the main task at hand--EDUCATION.

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4. What goals or ideas do you have that you would work toward if elected?

My main goals would be to:

- a) focus on our children and staffs health and safety,
- b) examine the budget, and find a way to update the schools properly, and
- c) stop focusing on the issues with past administration and board members.

As a community, the only way we can grow is to leave the past alone...we cannot change

what has been done, nor can we ignore our current situation without doing anything. We

need to come together as a “whole” and help one another. Dredging up past money

issues in regards to the football field is just delaying the possibilities of changing our

school system for the better. We need to stop reliving the past, live for today, and plan for

the future of USD 407..

5. Anything else about yourself you would like to mention?

While being back in the Russell community the last 3 years I have not heard many

positive comments about the school board or some of the administration, and I'm hoping

that we can put all of those problems from the past behind us, and focus on a better and

brighter place for our children to flourish for years to come!