



2025 JANESVILLE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Q&A



Thank you to all the candidates who provided responses
to our 2025 Janesville School Board Candidate Q&A.
We appreciate your time and thoughtfulness.

The Janesville School Board is an important governing body that impacts the educational foundation and trajectory of Janesville students and, by extension, our community. School board members serve 3-year terms. **In the 2025 Spring Election, there are 6 candidates vying for 3 seats.**

Forward Janesville is the Janesville-area chamber of commerce and leading private economic development organization. Forward Janesville (FJ) does not endorse candidates or host candidate forums. Instead, FJ provides a venue for candidates to connect to voters via our Candidate Q&A.

The Q&A provides an opportunity to hear from candidates on issues that are important to the business community and residents at large. Questions were developed with input from the leadership of the Forward Janesville Board of Directors and our Government Relations Council.

The 2025 Spring Election is on Tuesday, April 1. Visit Forward Janesville's 2025 Elections webpage (www.forwardjanesville.com/government-relations/2025-elections) for information on the local races, candidates and essential voting details.

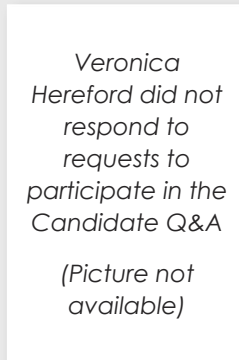
We hope you find our **2025 Janesville School Board Candidate Q&A** useful and encourage you to share it widely with your personal and professional network.

Veronica Hereford did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A

Meet the Candidates



**Michelle Haworth
(Incumbent)**



Veronica Hereford



Cory James



Tyra Johnson



Colton Measner



Julie Richardson



1. What motivated you to run for the Janesville School Board?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

As a mom of 3, when I was asked to consider running for the Janesville School District Board of Education (Janesville School Board), I was honored to be asked but more importantly thought it would be the best way to ensure I have direct input into how our district can best service students and staff.

Over my 3 terms on the board since, I've been able to gain insight into all of the great things offered in our district as well as weigh in on key decisions like hiring two superintendents, being parts of two referenda and meeting great staff offering awesome opportunities for our students. I feel it's critical to have current parents on the board, no one has more vested interest than a parent in the school district their child is raised in.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

As a parent, I want the absolute best opportunities for my children. As a youth sports coach in the community, I have had hundreds of our children battle for me on the field and I will use this as an opportunity for me to battle for their future. As a small business owner, I want this community to thrive. I feel that a poorly performing school district can damage the growth of our community.

TYRA JOHNSON:

First, I would like to say that I am a mother to eight School District of Janesville children. I am a mother who is involved within my children's education. I believe the school district plays a big role within our community. We need to make the district more desirable for future residents and business to make Janesville home. I believe we need to hold everyone accountable for our children's education. Increase test scores along with increasing staffing morale.

COLTON MEASNER:

I was motivated to run for school board because my inspiration is success for our students. By that I mean education before any and all else. I firmly believe I have what it takes to continue to make that priority one. I want to continue to allow faculty and students to share their input to keep improving.

I have a clear vision, will drive accountability, perform the duties with transparency and integrity. I want to enhance safety in our district even more than we already have. We need to support our staff and administration more. My experience within the district as a student was a big motivation. My friends and family were also a huge inspiration, so that I can give back in a meaningful way.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

I believe a strong community needs a strong school district. I am concerned about the most recent state report card. We are still seeing the residual effects of the pandemic on our students and teachers, and I want to be part of the solution to provide the best possible education for our School District of Janesville (SDJ) students. I have two recent graduates from SDJ and I am in touch with the needs and challenges of students coming out of school and into the workforce and college.



2. What is your vision for the School District of Janesville (SDJ)?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

I want the School District of Janesville (SDJ) to be a destination district for families and staff by being hungry to improve and challenge ourselves. I want employers to have a bragging right about our district to attract top talent. I want our students to be getting as many opportunities as they can to be successful after graduation and explore what they want for their future.

Not only do we have strong athletic programs and incredible arts programs, but we've got youth apprenticeships, dual-enrollment courses, the Janesville Business Academy, early literacy efforts, an international student exchange program and much more.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

My vision for the School District of Janesville is to become a top tier school district once again. We are going to be producing highly-educated students that will excel in further education or excel as a well-developed workforce.

TYRA JOHNSON:

My vision is to make sure our students are contributing, life-long learners in our community while creating a safe and welcoming environment for staff and students. I would like to see the district as a desirable district where we have people moving to the community to be sure their children have the best education.

COLTON MEASNER:

I would like to get back to where we were in the late 2000s up until a few years before COVID. Our report card was great, our chronic absenteeism was down, and all students/staff clear expectations. Sports and clubs shouldn't take priority over education. Our job as a district is to develop our students to become college/career ready.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

I want to see the outcomes for ALL Janesville students improved. They need to be college and career ready at graduation. My vision is to see the School District of Janesville (SDJ) be a leader in the state of Wisconsin again.

My vision is also for SDJ to be a premier place to work. The district needs to attain higher teacher satisfaction and retention rates because that translates into better student outcomes. It also helps with teacher recruitment, which is a win/win for the district and staff. I will work toward continued accountability with the budget to achieve these outcomes and manage the facilities.



3. The main functions of school board members are policymaking, budget development, and oversight of the district superintendent.

As a school board member, what background and experience do you bring to the table in those areas?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

With an undergrad degree in biology and chemistry as well as an MBA in marketing & management, as well as 10 years managing people, I feel I bring a lot of experience. I have been the lead in developing the superintendent goal and evaluation process most of my years on the board.

In addition, I'm able to bring a non-public sector view to how we can handle benefits, personnel issues and working on cross-functional teams. I am thorough in my preparation for each board meeting and respectfully ask questions or ask for further work to be done before I make a decision if I'm not comfortable. As Director of Operations at Stoughton Parts Sales, I'm familiar with budgeting and ensuring we take the right steps there as well.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

In my current profession as an Electrical Project Manager, I oversee policy, budgets, and employees at all different levels to make sure we provide the customer with a quality product while keeping within the budget. Through these experiences I've had many opportunities to uncover best practices that are effective, not only in the private sector, but as a school board member as well.

TYRA JOHNSON:

As a parent of a previous Head Start child, I was previously on the Head Start Policy Council. As my current position as a property manager, I create the budget for two properties. I have experience working with a variety of people from all backgrounds while supervising several employees and holding them accountable.

COLTON MEASNER:

I am currently on my church council (FLC), where I learn how to do all of those things. However, I am a product of the Janesville school district; I know what's going on within the walls of the district.

My qualifications are simple. I have a clear vision for the district, will drive accountability, and lead with transparency and integrity. When it comes down to a project, making a policy, or working on the budget with my fellow board members, I will not stop working until it's done.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

As a long-time volunteer on many non-profit boards, I have a lot of experience working with many people with varying opinions and views. I have always worked hard to listen to all points of view, take expert advice, and come up with a solution that has common ground while solving the problem. I will use these same approaches when guiding new policies that are needed as well as overseeing the superintendent.

Budgets are never easy and the school budget is no exception. Finding ways to be transparent and getting the most out of every dollar spent will be a priority, just as in any not-for-profit setting.



4. School districts throughout Wisconsin face a challenging funding environment and districts are increasingly going to referendum, especially for operating needs. In November 2024, the voters passed a 2-year, \$14.5 million non-recurring operational referendum that will expire at the end of the 26/27 school year. If you are elected, the operational referendum will face expiration during your term.

a) As a school board member, how would you plan to address the district's funding needs beyond the most recent referendum?

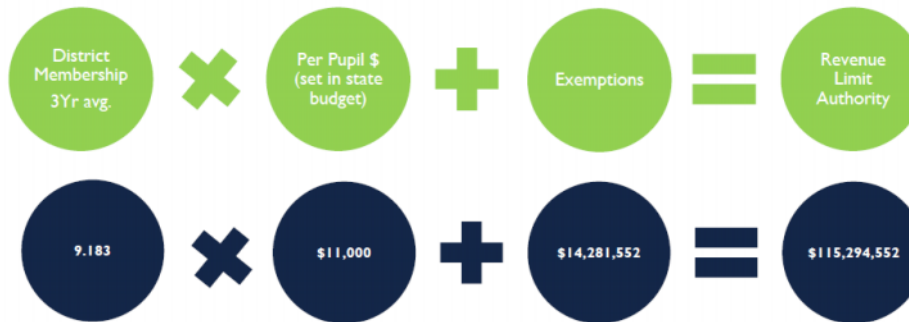
b) What is your perspective on the current funding situation at the state level?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

Answer to Part A: In every decision, big or small, I always approach it with a lens of fiscal responsibility. I think of spending district money as if it were my own home or business. We can't sacrifice student success so focusing on resources to improve test scores and student support is key.

In addition, I want the best staff working for the district, so I know retaining top talent is also key. Money isn't limitless and funding from state levels is our biggest source. To be good stewards of taxpayer money, we need to scrutinize everything. This may mean there is a change in how we can structure our benefits or utilize our facilities better or we rely less on outside consulting services.

Answer to Part B: State funding is currently about 50% of the whole School District of Janesville's \$152M budget while local revenue is 30%, so state funding is critical. We do need more state funding support for special education categorical aid, and an increase in the revenue limit ceiling and revenue limit authority more to keep up with inflation. Formulas for these funds factor 3-year prior data and while there is a national decline in enrollment, this is significantly affecting the school district's state aid. For example:



VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

Answer to Part A: Funding beyond the referendum will need to be assessed through multiple routes. First, we need to evaluate the district spending to determine where cuts can be made to allocate our current funds more effectively. This will be the most efficient and quickest way to make an impact in the district and for our students. Furthermore, we will prioritize any gaps in funding based on need, both educator and community driven, and work to secure any available grants.

Answer to Part B: Unfortunately, our funding is decided by a higher pay grade. However, my perspective on the current funding situation is that of course more money would be beneficial to not further burden the taxpayer by continuing to go to referendum. With this said, I will make sure we prioritize the most optimal use of our taxpayer dollars.

TYRA JOHNSON:

Answer to Part A: As a school board member I will help to find creative ways for funding within the district.

Answer to Part B: I believe the state funding is too low for what we need to be able to operate our districts. I think the state should increase funding for public schools, especially those with higher poverty levels.

COLTON MEASNER:

Answer to Part A: We need to continue to talk about the funding needs and compare our wants/needs. When it comes to funding and budget, you sometimes have to resort to running the district like a business. We need our operational referendum so we can keep the lights on and not have to make cuts.

Answer to Part B: I think the current funding situation for public schools is horrible and we need to advocate for more. Unfortunately, with the change in administration our funding has only gone down.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

Answer to Part A: First, I will advocate that the budget shortfalls be discussed with state legislators. I will encourage the board to begin planning for additional revenue avenues. I will research and investigate what other Wisconsin districts are doing to balance shortfalls. I will take a multi-pronged approach allowing us to "hope for the best but plan for the worst."

Answer to Part B: The state has not maintained the level of funding in keeping with inflation and that is burdening districts around the state. No taxpayer wants to be asked for more each time they go to the voting booth. There has been a dramatic increase in operational referendums across Wisconsin (62 in 2024, 212 since 2021). This is a direct result of the state underfunding schools for over a decade.

Funding is lagging way behind inflation. It costs more to educate students than it did 10 years ago; \$3,235 more per student is needed to keep up with inflation. There is an even greater funding disparity issue for students with special needs. The state revenue cap from the 1990's has limited the district's options. This is a state-level issue that has long-term effects for Janesville.



5. In November 2024, voters also approved a \$151.8 million capital referendum to support Phase 1 of the district's long-range facilities plan.

a) As a board member, you will be responsible for oversight of the referendum's Phase 1 implementation. What are your expectations for Phase 1?

b) As a board member, it is possible that you will have to look ahead and plan for future phases of the long-range facilities plan that might require a referendum. How will you approach planning for additional needs?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

Answer to Part A: There are three bid packages as a result of the November 2024 capital referendum. The first has started with exploration work in Wilson, Jefferson and the District office to create schematic designs. This is done in collaboration with staff to ensure they have input in how to use their space-specific to the needs of their students and staff. This phase is followed by Design Development and the Construction Document creation to get a final bid package together.

Lincoln, Parker and Craig will be the second part of the first package. Overall, my expectation is we get the most bang for our buck. The referendum was approved for a fraction of the total capital improvement funding need. I will ensure staff at each site is heard and has input and expect the result to be the best learning environment for our students allowing for individual needs to be met where we can.

Each phase has multiple opportunities for district engagement, I encourage the public to reach out with any questions or for updates along the way. I appreciate the community support of both referenda; we need to take care of our facilities and ensure we have the best environment for our students and staff.

Answer to Part B: My approach will always be to ensure the safety of our students and the best learning environments. If we continue to be fiscally responsible and communicate progress of referendum work to the public, there will be transparency and goodwill if the need for more funding arises. Education finance is a confusing thing. I encourage anyone interested to reach out to a board member or the Finance Committee member if questions arise.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

Answer to Part A: My expectations for Phase 1 are that the dollars allocated will be used as budgeted and contribute to the improvement of our students' education.

Answer to Part B: For future planning needs, I'd like to ensure that we are using the taxpayers dollars to develop and improve students education, literacy, and test scores. Brick and mortar improvements are important, but they don't necessarily correlate with student achievement. We need to ensure that proper preventive maintenance is done on buildings equipment and fixtures so we can extend the life of our buildings and use tax dollars as efficiently as possible.

With student enrollment down from prior years, it's important to look at what additional brick and mortar is needed as we were able to handle much higher student population in the spaces we have today.

TYRA JOHNSON:

Answer to Part A: My expectations for Phase 1 would be to gather what are the worst-case scenario issues and address accordingly.

Answer to Part B: *I will see if there are any special grants that we may be able to apply for. I will also look at new referendums if needed.*

COLTON MEASNER:

Answer to Part A: Continue to have clear conversation with everyone involved and make sure we don't get behind on the project. This referendum is going to have several phases, I just ask everyone to be patient and it will work out!

Answer to Part B: We may need to look ahead, but right now we need to focus on the task at hand and that's making sure this capital referendum goes to plan.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

Answer to Part A: Phase 1 has been planned for and approved, and implementation has begun. I anticipate and would expect the experts that have been hired will complete the job, on time and on budget. That is the goal. I am not naive enough to believe it will go off without any issues but the goal remains.

Answer to Part B: The next big issue is the planning for Phase 2 by continuing to evaluate needs and then sharing that with the community. From my initial reviews and inquiries, I am impressed with the School District of Janesville's management of the budget to date. They recently completed the payment of the most recent loan, assuring the district is not paying interest on a loan for longer than is needed.

Fiscal responsibility puts the district in an advantageous place for future planning. I would look at other districts in Wisconsin that have had success with referendums, as well as what worked for the last referendum here in Janesville for future needs.



6. In February 2024, the school board reviewed the 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan and approved four (4) strategic priority areas: Optimal Student Outcomes, Growing Talented & Invested Educators, Family & Community Partnerships, and Innovative Facilities & Use of Resources.

a) As a school board member, one of your primary responsibilities will be making sure that the plan is used for decision-making at the board and administrative levels.
How will you accomplish that?

b) The planning process to develop the 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan began in September 2023. If the same process is followed, planning for the 2027 – 2030 Strategic Plan should begin in September 2026. You will be a board member at that time. What are your expectations of the strategic planning process?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

Answer to Part A: Every presentation the board sees leads off with how the work relates to a strategic priority area. We've made a commitment to work on as much as we can, but priority areas are the main focus of our time and work.

Answer to Part B: I like the idea of planning for a few years at a time to keep goals consistent and allow for measurement. For 2027-2030, I wouldn't be surprised if the priorities are very similar, but it will depend on the current state at the time. I know we are seeing growth in math with our Bridges curriculum so that may be running more smoothly and consistently in three years while we may need to put an even bigger level of focus on reading.

Either way, consistent measurement, review and adjustment will be critical to determining if our strategies are working.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

Answer to Part A: These 4 priorities encompass how we make our community successful. Because of this, it is key to keep these priorities in the forefront of all decision making. We will strive to keep the students, educators, and ultimately the community involved in our decisions through outreach and forums to ensure our decision-making continually aligns with the strategy to make our community great again.

Answer to Part B: Our current strategy has not proven to be successful, not only by DPI report cards, but also in community satisfaction. The district continues to fall short, and the community suffers because of it. Success breeds success. A successful school district means better outcomes for students, better extracurriculars, and attracts better businesses to our community. We need to re-evaluate what has worked and where we can improve to make sure we set up Janesville for success for our students and families.

TYRA JOHNSON:

Did not respond to the question.

COLTON MEASNER:

Answer to Part A: By using the plan that was created.

Answer to Part B: We work really hard to develop that plan and put our students first.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

Answer to Part A: I will keep the student needs at the forefront when making all decisions. I will encourage the superintendent and administration to use the strategic plan as their guide for what is best for the students, teachers and our community. I will encourage engagement and listen to families and teachers in the school district and the community to facilitate optimal student outcomes. It takes an engaged community to build a strong community and school district.

Answer to Part B: I expect that the process will be complex and difficult. There are rarely simple answers to complicated issues. I will look to experts on topics to educate myself on creating a strategic plan. Compromise and what is best for the students will need to be kept front-of-mind when making any future plans.



7. Myriad factors impact student success and there are different ways of measuring student outcomes. One measure is the District of Public Instruction (DPI) State Report Cards. .

- a) What are your thoughts about the district's DPI State Report Card scores?
- b) With the tools available to you as a board member, how will you support improved test scores?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

Answer to Part A: I have many thoughts on this, especially as a parent. First, parents need to be engaged with their students learning and while everyone is busy, Infinite Campus is an easy app to use, and teachers are available to talk through things as needed. It starts at home also by ensuring students attend school.

The Wisconsin DPI report card measures districts on four areas including Forward Exam and Star test data to measure achievement, growth in students over prior year, lower percentile test performance student groups and graduation rates. While media and some public commentary paint the report card picture as all doom and gloom, there are highlights and good things happening.

We've seen growth in grades 3rd-5th exceeding the state average. Our Bridges math curriculum is awesome; ask your student about it, they'll tell you how many ways it allows them to learn. We've seen growth in 8th grade language arts and math and an increase in graduation rates. From 2022/23 to 2023/24, we saw growth in our Star math and reading scores as well. For grades 6th-8th, we outperformed the state average in Forward exam math and language arts.

There is more work to do of course to get our overall growth rate higher. The Optimal Student Outcome priority is critical, and the district is allocating resources to help drive that achievement. The Bridges math curriculum and Wonders reading curriculum will be continued focus areas ensuring staff consistently uses the tools to help students be successful. A focus on students below the 25th percentile is where additional personnel resources and time will be allocated. More work will be done to improve the transition from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school. Staff are working together to bridge to gap between those grades.

Answer to Part B: We have very talented directors and staff in our district with a true focus on results. I will ensure there is continued transparency on progress but also push for best practices to be shared across the schools. For example, I know Jackson Elementary is having success having their two 5th grade teachers teach two classes to each classroom. For example, one teacher can focus on social studies and math with the students. Not only is the school seeing improvement in scores, but it allows the teachers to have consistency and build expertise. This is success story to be shared among other schools for implementation considerations.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

Answer to Part A: Our report card falls short in all aspects. There are many reasons we could try to justify these scores, but the reality is all districts are measured on the same scale, and Janesville is losing to our surrounding communities. Our children deserve better and our job as a school board is to work with district administration to ensure that our decisions have our children's success in the classroom in mind.

Answer to Part B: As a school board member, we would support improved test scores by keeping the superintendent accountable for ensuring that educators are given the resources and support they need in the classrooms, while also keeping our standards high. Consistent progress tracking is key to ensuring that we are achieving the goals we set for the administration, educators, and students.

TYRA JOHNSON:

Did not respond to the question.

COLTON MEASNER:

Answer to Part A: I feel how we are "graded" as a district isn't right. It is a snapshot of one day and, as a former student, I know that half the things on these state test we don't learn in the classroom. Which is unfair to both sides, because it isn't in the teacher's plan, then the students are blindsided on test day. Not to mention all the other factors that go into the students' mindset prior to taking the test.

Answer to Part B: With what I have available to me, I will do everything I can to improve test scores. If that means exploring different options and plans for our curriculum, I'm all for that as long as we see different results.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

Answer to Part A: They are unacceptable. I have not heard anyone in the district or the community that is content with the results. Janesville is part of a national trend and that trend is also unacceptable. We need to do better for our students and our community.

Answer to Part B: I will encourage the superintendent to make the changes needed in curriculum and staffing to improve the scores. I will encourage him to allocate the resources needed to get students up to the appropriate grade level scores. I will support updating resources and curriculum to get ideal student results.



8. Principals can drive student achievement through their influence on the school climate. Strong standards, student attendance and parental involvement are all key components of a high-performing school climate. As a board member, what is your perspective on the principal's role and how will you support principals in delivering student outcomes?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

One of the things I enjoy most is visiting a different school in our district monthly. I've done this for more than two years with another commissioner. We are able to see the school environments firsthand and hear any concerns or celebrations they have when we meet with each principal. The principals we have are all strong, caring leaders with vast experience. I want principals to feel heard, share best practices and know they can escalate concerns for support in growing student outcomes. With the school level goals directly related to district goals, we're all working toward the same vision.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

The principals are the leaders of our schools. A strong and engaged leadership drives achievement. Creating a climate of high standards at the leadership level will have a trickle-down effect to educators and staff. Our principals need to be held accountable for student outcomes.

TYRA JOHNSON:

I think principals do play a major part by holding everyone accountable. I will support this by making sure there are resources to assist everyone involved.

COLTON MEASNER:

I will always support our principals with anything they need or need to do. However, we are seeing a lack of support for our staff from current administration. For instance, staff and administration in our schools need to feel they are supported when disciplinary action is needed. It all starts at the very top and trickles down. Standards and expectations need to be crystal clear throughout the administration chain; superintendent to directors, then down to our principals.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

The principal is the captain of the ship and the captain takes responsibility for all that happens on the ship. The principal needs to support and give teachers the flexibility and ability to do their jobs. They need to support staff by maintaining high standards of behavior for students and staff, in addition to leading by example. Teachers need to know that the principal has their safety, security and best interest at the center of their decision-making. High teacher satisfaction leads to high student results.

I will highly encourage principals to listen to their teachers and incorporate their ideas and concerns into the daily fabric of the school. Teachers spend eight hours a day with students and know their needs the best. If student needs are not met, student achievement suffers. Additionally, I will encourage principals to look at other schools that have low teacher turnover, desired student results, better attendance, higher parent involvement, or whatever the issue is, to see what they are doing well and what they can take to their own school. Sharing knowledge and experience is a key component to success for all.



9. What are SDJ's strengths? How would you build on those as a school board member?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

There are many good things about our district, but I think the greatest strength of our district is all of the opportunities we offer to help students be successful after graduation. I listed a few above, youth apprenticeships, Janesville Business Academy, dual enrollment classes, AVID, etc. All of these give our students experiences to grow and learn. While they engage with community leaders in these efforts, they build roots and relationships, helping our district be stronger. I will continue to support these programs and advocate for them, and I want as many students as we can to leverage them.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

The School District of Janesville's strength is that we have a diverse population. We have a large community of people who care about student success and achievements in the schools. Even with differing backgrounds and opinions, there are many people in the community who are focused on getting the district back to a top tier school district in the state.

TYRA JOHNSON:

I think the district has great diversity. I love that we have several programs to assist our students to be able to graduate with a degree. I would like to see more of this type of programming.

COLTON MEASNER:

The School District of Janesville has many strengths to be proud of. We offer many opportunities for our students to have an engaging experience in our district like field trips, internships, Elevate, youth apprenticeships, charter schools, etc. Providing experiences like these for students lets them get exposure to careers they may not otherwise know about.

We invest in our team members. 80% of our budget goes to our staff and their benefits. Reviewing the entire compensation package regularly will help us ensure we can attract and retain top talent.

We have a strong superintendent and board in place that act with integrity and thoughtfulness. I want to continue to enhance these strengths and all the other strengths this great district has by being an engaged board member.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

The community support they received in passing referenda is a true strength; an invested and engaged community leads to great outcomes. Programs like Craftsman with Character, Janesville Business Academy and the new Education Academy are all possible because of community partners. These programs benefit the students and the community.

The teachers and staff are doing amazing work every day at every level of the district. The School District of Janesville offers multiple schools and settings that ensure our students graduate: Rock University, ARISE, and Rock River Charter School, along with Craig and Parker. I will continue to support the teachers and programs that are working in Janesville.



10. What are SDJ's growth opportunities? How would you support growth in those areas as a school board member?

MICHELLE HAWORTH:

The opportunity for our district is improving student outcomes which will, in turn, improve the state report card. This won't happen overnight, and gains are already being seen. We are putting more resources towards some of the problem spots and continuously monitoring the data to find and share best practices.

VERONICA HEREFORD:

Did not respond to requests to participate in the Candidate Q&A.

CORY JAMES:

Parent engagement at board meetings is a growth opportunity for our school district. Being transparent about what is happening in the schools and problems we face as a district is important as well as ensuring accountability within our school board, superintendent, principals, teachers, students and parents.

TYRA JOHNSON:

I think the school district has growth in becoming more family-oriented. Making sure we continue to grow by making the district more desirable.

COLTON MEASNER:

While we are a flat enrollment district, we are the 9th biggest district in Wisconsin and need to continue to improve our focus on reading, math, and attendance to become a destination district for students and staff. As a board member I'd ensure the goals and priorities of the district always tie back into those three focus areas and be at the center of every decision.

Another opportunity is that we can prioritize updating our facilities for generations to come, like we already started to do when we passed the referendum this past year. I will approach the effort with a judicious lens of what we can justifiably afford and what will make the most impact in the long-term.

JULIE RICHARDSON:

The biggest growth area that needs to be addressed are the DPI and ACT test scores. Math and reading proficiency needs to be job #1.

The district needs to look for ways to engage parents more in their children's education. I will look to other districts and experts on how to best accomplish this. This goes hand-in-hand with absenteeism. I am hopeful that if we work on these issues in tandem we will have the best results.

Additionally, there is a need to keep evaluating our P4J program. Enrollment is not where it needs to be and it is critical that we get students into educational opportunities early for optimal results. As a board member, I will support policy and budgeting that will focus on these objectives. I will be an advocate for these growth areas in the School District of Janesville and be a liaison to the community.