

D86 candidates share opinions

Five running for four seats offer their positions on variety of topics



Where do the candidates stand on the issues?

Pamela Lannom compiled these responses from personal interviews and questionnaires.



Kevin Camden



Keith Chval



Robin Gonzales



James "Fred" Koch



Nancy Pollak

Top three responsibilities

1. Ensuring equity in educational opportunities for all students. 2. Providing prudent management of taxpayer funds. 3. Seeking community input to strengthen the district.

1. Providing district administration with broad, over-arching vision of priorities that are reflective of the community's. 2. Empowering and charging the administration with developing goals and strategies to achieve the vision. 3. Holding administrators accountable for performance to goals and vision.

1. Represent the best educational interests of students. 2. Engage with and serve the community. 3. Be fiscally responsible, accountable and transparent while making decisions about the use of taxpayer dollars.

1. Consideration of the entire student population. 2. Fiscal responsibility. 3. Assuring curriculum and infrastructure prepare students for a much different future.

1. Providing educational stewardship for the community that promotes excellence in student achievement and quality instruction at both schools. 2. Collaborating with staff and community in setting and achieving district goals. 3. Creating an environment of fiscal responsibility and transparency for taxpayers.

D86's greatest strength, area of need

Strength: student base, which is a direct result of committed parents, strong feeder programs and outstanding staff. Area of need: the board's actions and development of the district and its resources.

Strength: talented and passionate community made up of residents, students, teachers, staff and administration. Area in need: Cracks in unity and civility that have surfaced, which make it difficult to pursue excellence across the district.

Strength: students, teachers and communities of both high schools. Area in need: communicating achievements of both high schools, especially STEM programs at South

Strength: students who are interested in learning and excelling. Area in need: underlying factionalism that is effecting the maturation of the student population and the district's overall success.

Strength: commitment of students, families, teachers, administrators and community to pursue excellence in education. Area in need: prioritization of district resources and assets.

Referendum

Supports work of task force last summer to create list of needed projects that could be supported. Can't support current referendum because of the process, which did not involve taxpayers, and the lack of clarity on which projects actually will be completed.

Process was dysfunctional with too much back and forth too late in the game. Battling among board members makes it more difficult to generate community support. Delayed decision on final projects provided too little time for taxpayers to be educated on and rally behind projects.

Agrees repairs and improvements are needed at both high schools, but communication about the referendum and lack of line item detail makes it difficult for people to support it. Worries the \$76 million figure is too much of a ballpark number.

Opposes referendum as it stands today, which has been put forth haphazardly. Not necessary against referendum in general or pool in general. Wonders whether district is adequately addressing needs of students for the next century.

In favor of having schools community can be proud of. Supported facilities planning process in place up until last summer. New \$76 million plan does not address all the facilities issues. Willing to listen over the next several weeks as to why this is the right amount and right list of projects.

Buffer zone

Needs to know more about how and why the zone was started. Believes enrollment projections need to be updated based on new home construction he sees in the district.

Thinks a better community understanding of what each school offers would provide a more objective standard on which to compare the two schools. Sees value in the perspective, diversity and quality of education Hinsdale South offers.

Larger issue is disparity of sizes between the schools. Supports programs that draw students to a high school rather than forcing them to move. Envisions strengthening STEM courses as a magnet program at South.

Need to look at what is in best long-term interests of the district. Buffer zone could be a good tool for managing enrollment, unless it continues to create severe contention in the community.

Not sure why buffer zone has been overlooked for past 25 years. Believes all options should be examined, but eliminating zone doesn't solve the district's problems. Likes the idea of a magnet program. Supports examining all options, including creating two K-12 unit districts.

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