



# Scott W. Starkey

## 490 Board of Education Candidates Questionnaire

1. Why did you decide to run for USD 490 Board of Education?

I decided to run for re-election for several reasons. I'm a lifelong resident of El Dorado and a proud product of USD 490. My primary and secondary education in El Dorado began at Skelly Elementary School, proceeded to El Dorado Middle School, and culminated with my graduation from El Dorado High School in 1990. After high school I enrolled, and graduated, from Butler Community College before completing my undergraduate degree at Friends University. I continued to reside in El Dorado while attending Friends University because El Dorado always has, and always will be, the place I call home. I currently have three boys enrolled at El Dorado High School, and another child that recently graduated. I believe strongly in our school system and community, and the opportunity to give back and serve is something I'm extremely passionate about. I want to help ensure my kids, my grandkids, and all the youth of El Dorado have the best educational experience possible. I want to be part of the solution, and work with all parties involved to promote educational excellence in the town I have called home my entire life.

2. Do you feel you are qualified for this position and if so, why?

I have served the community of El Dorado since 1992, when I began working as a volunteer fire fighter with the El Dorado Department of Public Safety. I continued to work and dedicate my time to the city and school district until 2004. I have volunteered on the YMCA Board, Stadium Advisory Committee, Bluestem Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, El Dorado Sports Foundation Board of Directors, and the USD 490 Board of Education. As I mentioned above, giving back is just something I was taught to do as a child, and I will continue to deliver and pass on this trait to my children and grandchildren. During my tenure on the school board, we raised test scores of our students by adopting the proper curriculum designed to help them succeed. Hiring and retaining quality educators and administrators was vital to the success of

our efforts. I was part of the board who has developed the most recent 5-year long range district plan. We have also worked on, and passed, a bond issue to build two new grade schools and the El Dorado Performing Arts Center. By equipping El Dorado with up-to-date facilities, we will have the ability to rival all districts in our area. This helps facilitate a quality learning experience while promoting our community. I would certainly appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve on the board of education to help see these projects through.

3. If elected, what would be your top priority or focus?

School safety has always been a top priority of mine. I'm dedicated to creating an environment where students are safe to learn, and teachers are safe to teach. I also want to continue promoting pride within our district and community. El Dorado is a great city filled with great and caring people. Being a liaison between the schools and the community is very important to me. Not only do I want our students to be proud of our schools and where they live, I want our community to support our students and their activities. I believe we, as a district, need to focus on implementing more vocational types of education. There are a lot of students who may not succeed at the collegiate level; however, they may find a calling or develop skill sets in different vocations. The cost of college tuition is constantly on the rise making it more difficult for parents and students alike.

4. Is there anything else you would like to add as you are considered for this position?

My previous tenure on the board, and community service, should reflect my deep affection for our school district and community. I have lived here for almost 46 years and I hope to live here many years to come. Students currently enrolled in USD 490 are the future leaders of our great community, and I want to do my part to make sure they are afforded the best education and guidance possible, so our community will continue to thrive. I'm a proud grandparent of a new baby boy, and I want the best for him and all our youth in the years to come. I truly feel the current board of education has served our schools very well, and have the foresight to lead our district in a productive, proactive way. I would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election, and I promise to keep our kids, our educators, our staff, and our community a top priority.