



# Ryan Carson

## 490 Board of Education Candidates Questionnaire

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

I have always felt a drive to volunteer in our community. El Dorado is a wonderful community that we should be proud to be a part of and if the opportunity arises where I can give back, I believe we should choose to help make it the best community we can. I choose to volunteer for many different causes in our community from serving on different Boards to coaching. I believe Children are our future and anything that I can do to help them or our community grow is important to me. This is time spent away from my wife and children, time that I value, so I choose the things that I believe, have the ability, to have the most impact. In my opinion, there is nothing more important to our children's lives and our community than our school system.

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

I have been involved in this community for several years in many different capacities. From coaching to serving on local boards, to helping out at school activities, however, what I believe really qualifies me for this position is that I have a true desire to help all our children succeed. I believe that education is the most important part of a child's life not only during the time they spend in school, but also in helping create who they become once they are out of school. Our children are the future of this community. I want them to stay here, be involved, and I want them to be proud of being a citizen of El Dorado. Listed below are a few of the boards and recent volunteer positions I am honored to have been a part of.

- BOE-Recently filled the vacant seat on the BOE left by Wanda Stewart and have been serving in this position for the last year.
- United Way of El Dorado – I am currently the acting Board President of this organization, and have been involved for over 5 years. This organization helps raise over \$300,000 for 27 different non-profits in our community.
- Partners In Education – I currently served on this board for over 5 years with this last year serving as Vice-President. I also co-chair the 5K Fundraiser Run.

This organization raises funds to help teachers fund innovative classroom programs that reach the youth and help them learn.

- Graduate of Leadership Butler – This is an amazing local course that teaches and inspires future leaders in our county. I choose to take this class to learn some of the skills needed to not just serve on Boards, but actively participate and contribute.

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

A few “priorities” that I feel are important are listed below.

- Career Training – I am proud to have been a part of the current BOE that set the districts 5-year strategic plan. One of the main priorities in this plan was focused on Career training. It is important that we all understand that not all children are the same and therefore their paths after school should not be the same either. Whether they choose, College, Tech-school, certificate program or choose to go straight to workforce, we need to be there to support them and help them find the best option that fits their needs.
- Arts – I am a strong supporter of the Arts. I studied Art at Wichita State University and believe they are equally important for all children to receive a well-rounded education. Not only does art teach our children valuable lessons, they can also be therapeutic for the different stressors children have in their lives.
- Grow Pride - #partofthepride should not just be a hashtag. We all need to have pride in our community and in our schools. Hopefully we can pass this pride on to future generations and give them something they can be proud of.

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

I have been honored to be on the BOE for the past year and look forward to serving more, if given the opportunity. I do not take this position or responsibility lightly and promise to give my all if elected. I encourage everyone to go and vote and I would appreciate your vote on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>.