



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon
Chamber of Commerce

POLICY COUNCIL & BUSINESS BUILDS PAC

ECUSD#7: SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Kristen Pfund

Position Sought: District 7 School Board

1. Please provide us with some basic information. Tell us briefly about:

a. your family:

b. how long you've lived in District 7:

c. your education:

d. your employment:

My husband Matt and I have 3 children Layne, who is a freshman studying nursing at Belmont University in Nashville, Jack is a senior who will be joining our family business after graduation, and Charlie a sophomore at Edwardsville High School. Watching my kids grow up in the same school system as I did have been enlightening.

I graduated from SIUE with a degree in Speech Communications and a minor in Business Administration.

My husband and I own a local business called Pfund Construction specializing in commercial and residential construction. In addition, I am the co-owner of an event venue located in Edwardsville called The Ink House.

2. Why are you seeking this office?

My passion is my community! This area is where I grew up and where my husband and I have chosen to continue our lives together, raise our family, and build our business. I have had the fortune of being able to see my community grow and prosper throughout the years. One of the things that I have never taken for granted is that change happens and can happen fast and is either perceived as a positive or negative to individuals. I am a person who embraces change and does not settle for doing things the same "because that's how it's always been done".

3. What education, skills and experiences have prepared you to deal with the complex financial, technical and legal issues that regularly come before the school board?

I believe that I possess a combination of characteristics that make me qualified to be an asset to the District 7 school board. Creative thinking and vision to see beyond what is just acceptable and the status quo. I demonstrate leadership daily, we are charged with the task of being a support system to our students, teachers, staff, and community. This is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. People look to the board for help and answers.

4. Identify and prioritize the three most important challenges facing District 7. Please justify your prioritization. How do you propose to pay for these projects?

Engaging our community - Beyond being a member of the school board I am most importantly and proudly a parent. I strive to look for ways to stay involved with what is happening in our schools and in the community. A school district needs to have the support of its community. I am an active member in our community and do have a pulse on what is happening. I will look for ways for parents and community members to stay involved and represent the short and long term needs that we may have.

Technology – Our district is still not at the top of the game when it comes to technology. We have integrated a great deal of technology into our student's everyday education and have made substantial progress, but the pandemic has shown us that we still have a long way to go. As a member of the board, it is important to understand the needs, infrastructure, and capacity of the school systems. There will hopefully be some governmental assistance with stimulus funds to aid in our continuation of building our system.

Diversity and Inclusion –

Not only does creating greater multicultural awareness and inclusion help students with different backgrounds and needs succeed, but it encourages acceptance and helps prepare students to thrive in a diverse world. Our district can embrace this and educate beyond just the classroom. A director of diversity and inclusion would be the districts quickest way to achieve this goal. This position would most likely be funded through the current school budget. I also believe that the community at large supports this position and would feel that the district self-funding would be most beneficial.

5. What are your thoughts on school district finances?

a. Are there opportunities to cut expenses?

Specifically, where are those opportunities?

b. Is there a need for new or additional revenue?

Specifically, where would it come from?

c. Are there areas where spending needs to be increased?

**Specifically, where does spending need to increase?
Specifically, where would the money come from?**

As a member of the school board one of the top responsibilities is that of being fiscally responsible. If the community chooses me to serve on the board a complete and in-depth review of past, current, and future spending will be evaluated. A fresh perspective can be greatly beneficial to identify spending trends and needs.

6. District 7's superintendent, approximately halfway through the employment contract, announced plans to depart; the district is currently engaging in a search for a new superintendent. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the new superintendent? What are your recommendations for minimizing superintendent and key personnel turnover?

As a member of the board my role is to build a relationship with the superintendent. Creating a culture of transparency, collaboration, and positivity are keys to a successful working relationship. Being a member of this community for so long I feel that it is my privilege and responsibility to assist the superintendent with students, parents, community members, and businesses. We should work in partnership.

7. In March 2018 the 1% county-wide school facilities sales tax appeared on the ballot for the third time, and Madison County voters resoundingly opposed the implementation of this additional sales tax. If elected, would you support putting this tax before voters for a fourth time? Why or why not?

No, I do not support the 1% county-wide school facilities sale tax. The voters have spoken enough by opposing this tax 3 times.

8. If you're the incumbent, what have been your significant accomplishments during your term? If you're the challenger, what do you believe have been the significant disappointments of the incumbents, and how would your term in office be different?

9. If elected, how would you engage with the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce as a conduit to the business community?

I am currently involved in the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Chamber of Commerce with my businesses. I would continue to utilize the many valuable resources that the Chamber provides. The Chamber supports the many businesses that reside in our community and that partnership is an especially important asset to the school district.

10. At the end of your term in office, how will you know if you've been successful?

At the end of my school board term, I would like the community to recognize my service as one of collaboration, transparency, and creative problem solving. My passion is making a difference and having a positive impact on the time I have spent serving my community.

11. What changes you would like to see regarding:

a. how District 7 functions as a whole?

b. how District 7 addresses unfunded mandates?

c. how District 7 approaches curricula innovation?

d. how District 7 prepares students for entry into the workforce?

e. how District 7 has managed the COVID-19 situation?

- a. I would like to see more transparent, diverse, collaborative, and communicative district.
- b. The input of the board, administration, and teachers would be key. What do we have that we can apply and/or adapt?
- c. Our school district has always been viewed as one of the most premier education providers. Staying on top of and in front of curriculum is going to be the key to maintaining that status.
- d. Throughout the pandemic there has been even more of a shift for students and what their future education looks like. For many they are choosing not to pursue higher education. This creates a very valid notion that we need to re-visit the vocation studies at a middle school and high school level. All students should be given the opportunity to be successful