



Edwardsville | Glen Carbon  
Chamber of Commerce

## **POLICY COUNCIL & BUSINESS BUILDS PAC**

### **ECUSD#7: SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Candidate:** **Tiffany Paschall**

**Position Sought:** **District 7 School Board Member**

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

**a. your family:**

**I have been married to my husband Jeremy Paschall, a lieutenant firefighter/paramedic with the Edwardsville Fire Department for 22 years. We have two children our daughter Ellie, a freshman at Illinois State University and our son, Nick, an eighth grader at Liberty Middle School.**

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

**I have lived in District 7 for 40 years**

**c. your education:**

**I graduated from Edwardsville High School and received my BA in Psychology from SIUE.**

**d. your employment:**

**I am a Realtor® at RE/MAX Alliance**

**2. Why are you seeking this office?**

**I am running for District 7 School Board because my years of experience in local real estate have proven that a community is only as strong as its school system. While I believe we have a great district, I know we can be better. I am passionate about improving our schools and student experiences. Now is the time to embrace new ideas and new technologies. We should always be looking to other excellent districts for**

inspiration and seeking ways to innovate and progress. I am dedicated to our students, our parents, and our staff and I will work diligently to include everyone in our efforts to improve.

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?

The experience I have gained serving on various executive PTO boards for the last 14 years, the latest as the President of the EHS Choral Boosters as well as my daily experience as a local Realtor® have paved the way to deal with the complex issues that regularly face the school board.

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? Our first priority has to be dealing with the education gap and the strain on mental health services that the recent pandemic has created. There are funds that will be dispersed that will have Covid recovery restrictions on them that can be used to expand summer school offerings and possible extra after school elective education programs. Our mental health support services were already strained and under funded and increasing the services we need to provide to our students is going to require partnering with community mental health professionals and seeking and promoting partnerships with non-profits specializing in teen mental health.

5. What are your thoughts on school district finances?

a. Are there opportunities to cut expenses?

Previous audits show very lean financial management by the District.

Specifically, where are those opportunities?

A detailed conversation with the Assistant Superintendent of Finance Dave Courtney.

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

Yes. There are improvements needed to the technology, the buildings, the infrastructure and programming that are currently un or underfunded.

Specifically, where would it come from?

I believe that direction would come from recommendations of the Superintendent. I know that the candidates for the next Superintendent spoke in great depth about building relationships with local professionals and

organizations and exhausting all grant programs in order to increase the District's revenue.

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

Yes.

Specifically, where does spending need to increase?

Technology and mental health support along with building maintenance and growth.

Specifically, where would the money come from?

I believe that direction would come from recommendations of the Superintendent. I know that the candidates for the next Superintendent spoke in great depth about building relationships with local professionals and organizations and exhausting all grant programs in order to increase the District's revenue.

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?

If elected to the school board I plan to cultivate a relationship with the Superintendent based on mutual respect and honest communication. I plan to represent the interests of the students, parents, teachers and staff in a way that recognizes the Superintendent's experiences and qualifications and yet maintains the integrity of the priorities of the school board.

Edwardsville School District is about to have its 4th Superintendent in six years. Minimizing this turnover as well as turnover in Hadley's support personnel is integral to creating a long term plan that is sustainable. My recommendation for minimizing that turnover is to invest in relationships. I will encourage the Superintendent to invest in the community in addition to the school and the board to invest in developing a respectful relationship with the Superintendent. That begins with listening to the new ideas a new Superintendent will bring to the district.

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?

I would not support putting this before the voters again. They have spoken loudly and concisely against a school facilities sales tax. I agree that there needs to be additional funding sources but putting the same "solution" on the ballot only to be rejected each time is an exercise in futility that doesn't respect the voter.

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 would pursue membership in the Chamber to build better relations between the board and the Chamber. I believe both organizations have the same goal, to build a strong and thriving Community that draws families and businesses to our area. Open minded and collaborative communication will help to create plans and align objectives in order to reach that goal.

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

My measure of success will be in the relationships I have built and if I have been able to make progress in equalizing the current power structure.

11. What changes you would like to see regarding:

a. how District 7 functions as a whole?

I would like to see District 7 pursue stronger relationships with local professionals and businesses in order to provide educational opportunities to our students that are interested in CTE and create stronger mental health support. I would like to see District 7 establish a clear communication strategy not only with its students and families but with the Community at large.

**b. how District 7 addresses unfunded mandates?**

The district currently absorbs the cost of unfunded mandates as does every other district in the State.

**c. how District 7 approaches curricula innovation?**

The curriculum review cycle started post Prop-E and was paused due to the pandemic. It is planned to restart in the fall of 2021.

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

Currently District 7 prepares the majority of its students to enter a 4 year college and undervalues the opportunities of CTE and other certificate education programs. I would like to partner with community professionals, similar to the Edwardsville CEO program, to provide those opportunities to all students across the spectrum of careers.

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

To be fair District 7 lags behind in technology by a decade or more in comparison to other nearby communities. This discrepancy is due largely to the disparity in funding. Since Edwardsville is 18% lower income the largest part of school funding is reliant on local property taxes unlike surrounding communities. That has made the Covid response even more difficult. In regards to specific plans the District's response could have been more decisive and well communicated.