



Question 3: How will you work to improve career and technical education throughout K-12?

4-Year Candidates

Ruthina Malone:

"Robust career and technical education should be a fundamental piece of our curriculum. During my campaign, I've talked with many students and parents who are seeking a stronger investment from the ICCSD in career and technical education.

It's important to ensure that we are offering our students many different paths toward post-secondary opportunities. And, it's important that we not limit any student whose aspirations may exceed what their test scores predict.

I attended a vocational high school that offered excellent preparation for students who didn't want to attend college. However, I also faced roadblocks that served to dissuade some of my peers and me from seeking a college education. Our school became overly

focused on the trades, and the end result was attempting to convince us that a trade was our only path.

As a board member, I want to ensure that the ICCSD offers all of our curricular and co-curricular opportunities in an equitable, fair way. It's important for board members to understand this type of balance when setting any policy for the district. "

Janet Godwin:

"The skills gap in our nation and state is real. Career and technical education is an important pathway that can help minimize the skill gap by preparing students in high school for technical and vocational careers. I will work as a board member to ensure our district provides comprehensive career and technical education experiences supported by counseling engagement to ensure students exploring these pathways choose them based on interest and career choice.

The partnership with Kirkwood is one very good example of how the district is already focusing on career and technical education, but we can do more. I would like to see the career and technical education offerings continue to grow at our high schools and include financial and project management skills, as well as more opportunities to practice and develop collaboration, communication, and team work skills.

There is a significant opportunity to partner with local businesses to create internships or apprenticeship programs, where students can gain first hand, project-based work experience. I would also like to ensure that counseling services highlight the need for students choosing career and technical pathways to pursue postsecondary education and the attainment of professional credentials and certificates in their field. "

JP Claussen:

"I am a large supporter of career and technical training. I believe that we should have some access to introductory vocational offerings, such as wood shop, that teach practical skills, as well as more advanced opportunities. I think the best way to do this is to partner with local businesses and the



building trades in order to have the type of programming that can lead to careers in vocational fields, if that is what students are interested in pursuing. The Kirkwood Regional Center is a good start, but I would like to see a more robust program available to more students."

Karen Woltman:

"Listen to stakeholders and work with district administration to create CTE programming that meets the needs of our students."

Laura Westemeyer:

"Another concern I have with the bond referendum is it has nothing listed for career and technical education. It's a need in our community and very important to the continued success of our community. As someone who grew up on a farm, and whose father was a welder, I understand and appreciate that there are many different learning styles in our school district. I'd love to see more emphasis on the career and technical education. I feel it is imperative to provide more tradesmen for the growing needs in our local community. These individuals are often ready to join the workforce fairly quickly and avoid large school loan debts. To have any small construction done in our community, is usually at least a 6 month wait. I also would fully support bringing back the home building program the district provided several years ago. We have many passionate teachers in our community that would love the opportunity once again to provide more career and technical education, and add FFA to our programming. I am 100% a supporter of career and technical education!!"

2-Year Candidates

Shawn Eyestone:

"As a general rule we have a highly educated community which yields the thought that all of the students in the district should be and will be attending college. While college is becoming an increasingly required component for many careers, it still isn't the path for all students. There are plenty of skills to be learned while in our district that can propel a student to have a successful career after high school. They may still end up attending college, but may have a better understanding what they would be working towards.

Working with local businesses in creating internships or apprenticeships would be a way to get students experience while minimizing the cost impact to the district. If we are willing to accept the cost, we can create better vocational tech training classrooms within our schools. This would be an example of how investing in our facilities will yield more improved curriculum experiences."

Charlie Eastham:

"I am anticipating working with Director Phil Hemingway as well as other Directors to implement the agricultural related career and technical education program proposals that are currently under consideration. I also understand that at least one high school principal is discussing expanding technical and career course offerings. I would want to make resources quickly available so that such current initiatives will reach completion. Further, I would support creations of a task force, in the absence of any relevant existing organizational planning structure, charged with making recommendations for improving, expanding or establishing grade appropriate and on campus career and technical education



course offerings. The participation of students, parents, teaching staff, and interested community parties would be a part of such a task force."