

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDIA CONTACT:

Liz Benditt, Education First Shawnee Mission

[liz\\_benditt@yahoo.com](mailto:liz_benditt@yahoo.com)

(816) 616-5323



### **Education First Shawnee Mission Endorses Legislative Candidates for upcoming November Board of Education Election**

**August 21, 2019 (Overland Park, Kan.)** – Education First Shawnee Mission (EFSM), a Political Action Committee (PAC) and parent-led advocacy group for the Shawnee Mission School District, has released its endorsements for the 2019 Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education, which takes place on November 5, 2019. The following candidates have received EFSM’s endorsement:

- Shawnee Mission Northwest Seat – Devin Wilson
- Shawnee Mission South Seat – Jessica Hembree
- Shawnee Mission North Seat – Sara Goodburn (Incumbent)

“As moms and advocates, we are very excited to announce our endorsements,” said Megan Peters of EFSM. “We are pleased with the progress we’ve made since the 2017 Board of Education elections and look forward to bringing more transparency and contemporary values to our school board in 2019.”

The group heavily vetted candidates via a comprehensive review process:

1. Surveys were sent to all the candidates running for Shawnee Mission District Board of Education seats with a strong focus on EFSM’s priority issues.
2. Candidates who completed the survey were then invited to face-to-face interviews with members of EFSM to share more about their positions.

3. Candidate responses were rated using a professional rubric to score both the surveys and the subsequent interviews, and final decisions on endorsements were made by totaling those scores.

A copy of the EFSM candidate survey can be found on its website:

[www.educationfirstshawneemission.org](http://www.educationfirstshawneemission.org) (Direct link to candidate survey can be found [here](#).)

Peters continued, “Our goals for the Shawnee Mission School Board have been consistent for the past two years: be transparent, show cultural competency, promote a positive working culture, and fully fund teachers and special education. We are proud to have fantastic educators and students in the Shawnee Mission community, and look forward to supporting the more robust SMSD legislative platform and continuing to protect our public schools.”

### ***Education First Shawnee Mission***

*Education First Shawnee Mission (EFSM) is a Political Action Committee and parent advocacy group based within the Shawnee Mission School District in Johnson County, Kansas. Dedicated to improving and defending our schools, EFSM seeks to support Pro-Public School members of the Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education and Kansas State Legislators within our district boundaries. Our advocacy group is comprised of Shawnee Mission parents from all over the district, from Lenexa to Roeland Park to Overland Park (and everywhere in between). We care deeply about protecting the value of our community's number one asset by supporting our schools. We advocate for fully funded, excellent public schools and reject the concept of privatization and school vouchers. Learn more at [www.educationfirstshawneemission.org](http://www.educationfirstshawneemission.org).*

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