

2021 Candidates for SPS School Board



Brandi VanAntwerp

Brandi VanAntwerp is the Grants Administrator at the CoxHealth Foundation. She leads the federal funding endeavors for the entire CoxHealth system of six hospitals, eighty-three clinics, and Cox College. She has been involved in civic organizations and fundraising for nonprofits since the age of twelve.

Brandi is a mom to two biological sons and two foster sons. Three of the four boys are SPS students, and the fourth is in daycare. Brandi attended Watkins Elementary until moving to a small town outside Springfield at the end of the 5th grade. Brandi is the Fundraising Chair for Pershing PTA and Communications Chair for Central Scholars Supporter Group (PTA look-alike organization).

Brandi has served on several boards including Diaper Bank of the Ozarks, Missouri Cottey College Scholarship Committee, Association of Fundraising Professionals Ozarks Chapter, Southwest Missouri Grant Writers, and Miss Springfield Scholarship Program. Brandi also has work experience with large budgets, audits, and reporting of federal expenditures.

(In addition to several community boards and leadership positions), Brandi is a bio mom and foster mom to four young boys. All of her boys bring different gifts and challenges with them daily to SPS or preschool classes. Brandi hopes to be a voice for all of our children and to provide the perspective of an active SPS parent to the board... <https://www.facebook.com/BrandiForSPS>



Daniel Ogunyemi

Originally from Ruston, LA, Daniel obtained his B.S. in Psychology from Southwest Baptist University and an M.S. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Evangel University. He has worked with individuals with disabilities, in the child welfare/foster care system, behavioral health, and diversity and inclusion. His work in the community includes The Network's Leadership Council, the Mayor's Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations, the Forward SGF Advisory Committee, Springfield Chamber Legislative Policy Committee and other organizations. Daniel has been recognized as Springfield Business Journal 40 Under 40, 417 Magazine's 2020 Best Dressed, Springfield Business Journal's 12 People You Need to Know, and an Emerging Leader of the Year Finalist at the 2020 Southwest Missouri Nonprofit Excellence Awards. <https://www.facebook.com/OgunyemiForSchoolBoard>



Danielle Kincaid

I grew up in Raymore, Missouri (a suburb of Kansas City) and moved to Springfield to attend Southwest Missouri State University. I obtained my bachelor's degree in Criminology and a master's degree in Business Administration, both from (Southwest) Missouri State University. I then moved to Omaha, Nebraska to attend Creighton University School of Law, where I graduated cum laude and served as President of the Student Bar Association, a member of the editorial staff of the Creighton Law Review, and was a founding editor of the Creighton International and Comparative Law Journal. I moved back to Springfield in 2013 after practicing law in Omaha, Nebraska for a few years. In 2019, my law partner and I opened our own law firm: The Elder Law Group, LLC. My law practice focuses on estate planning, probate, and special needs planning.

In addition to my fulfilling work at The Elder Law Group, I enjoy giving back to the community through my service as a board member (for several community boards and leadership positions) including for the Foundation for Springfield Public Schools...for many years. During my time on the Foundation Board, I served on the Scholarship Committee (chairperson), the Strategic Plan Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Growth & Giving Committee, and the Teacher Appreciation Banquet (Celebrate SPS) Committee. I have witnessed firsthand the needs of our students and educators. I have enjoyed my time on the SPS Foundation Board, but I know I can make a bigger impact by serving on the Board of Education.

<https://www.facebook.com/DanielleforSPS>



Jill Patterson

- Jill has been the Title IX Coordinator at Missouri State University since August 1, 2015, which involves coordinating the University Title IX programs and investigations at the Springfield, West Plains and Mountain Grove campuses.
- Jill worked at Keck & Austin, LLC from January 2013 until August of 2015, working in the areas of insurance defense and public entity law.
- Jill was a Full Time Instructor in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department at Missouri State University from August 2012 to May 2013.
- Jill was the Chief Legal Counsel for the Greene County Sheriff's Office from January 2011 to December 2012.
- Jill was a First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Person's Division in the Greene County Prosecuting Attorney's Office from January 1999 to December 2010, and was responsible for

supervising six assistant prosecutors in the areas of domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, assaults, and sexual assaults.

- Jill was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Greene County Prosecuting Attorney's Office from June of 1995 to December of 1998, specializing in prosecuting sex offenses and child abuse cases.
- Jill was an Assistant Public Defender in the District 31 Public Defender's Office from November of 1993 to May of 1995, handling felonies, misdemeanors and the juvenile caseload.
- Jill has been on many community boards over the years...and since 2015, the Springfield School Board. She served as Vice President of the school board for two years and began her term as President of the school board in March of 2018.



Kelly Byrne

R. Kelly Byrne graduated from Kickapoo High School in 2003 and was a starting member of the boys basketball state championship team and received Academic All-State honors. He attended St. Cloud State University on a full athletic scholarship and graduated with a degree in business marketing. He returned to Springfield shortly after college and founded Say U Can, a real estate investment and development firm. He is married to Tasha Byrne, a Realtor with Reece Nichols, and has two children at Disney Elementary. He attends Life.Church, is a member of the board of directors for the Ozarks Regional YMCA, and volunteers his time as a youth basketball coach.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/806641973507953>



Dr. Maryam Mohammadkhani

Dr. Maryam Mohammadkhani, MD, has been a licensed physician for 25 years, having trained and practiced in Massachusetts as a fellow and Harvard Medical School instructor, followed by 16 years as a pathologist, Director of Histology, and immunology instructor at Cox Health in Springfield. She has experienced private and public education in Springfield and has been an avid supporter of both. She was a Central High School volunteer for 3 years prior to the pandemic, fielding parent/guardian phone calls, monitoring secure entry, and facilitating communications to classrooms, and in the last year mentoring students in her favorite subject- Science Olympiad and Science Fair.

Dr. Mohammadkhani's medical background equips her with a better understanding of the physical, cognitive, and emotional development of children. As a pathologist or "doctor's doctor", she is experienced in analyzing data and the art of effective communication and difficult decision making. Her

career began during a time when medicine experienced an explosion of knowledge impacting cancer genetics and therapeutics, similar to the massive innovation we are experiencing with technology in education. She knows how to tread change without losing sight of the guiding tenet of excellence in education, especially in this challenging and crucial time. <https://www.facebook.com/MaryamforSPS>



Scott Crise

Scott Crise has lived in Springfield since 1999. He is originally from the Chicago, Illinois, area and attended college at the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma, where he earned Bachelor of Science degrees in both Petroleum and Mechanical Engineering. He also holds a Masters of Business Administration from The University of Chicago.

Scott has worked at Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. (AECI) for over 20 years and currently serves as Manager of Technical Services. Scott's experience at AECI has primarily been in project management for the construction, upgrading, installation, budgeting, and development of large-scale projects at AECI's power plants. Scott has also been involved with a number of committees and initiatives at AECI including the Long Term Strategic Planning team, United Way, the Tech Faire Professional Development Committee, and wrote the first Crisis Management Plan for AECI. He received a certificate in Leadership Decision Making from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government Executive Education program.

Community involvement is a priority for Scott, and he currently serves (or has served on a number of community boards in leadership positions including)...a member of the Springfield Public Schools Transportation Expansion Workgroup, and Foundation for Springfield Public Schools Board of Directors (Development Committee Chair) and was involved in the start of the Back to School grant program, and former PTA member at Glendale High School, Pershing Middle School, and Sequiota Elementary School, where he started and chaired the "Watchdog Dad" program...

Scott is married to Martha White Crise, a proud Springfield Public Schools graduate and current instructor at Ozarks Technical Community College. He is the father of Natalie and Cynthia Crise, also proud SPS alumni. He and Martha live in Springfield with their cat, Wrigley.