

Dr. Richard S. Koonce is serving the third year of his first term as a member of the Sandusky Board of Education. He was elected to the Board in November 2009.

Dr. Koonce, 52, was born and raised in Sandusky, Ohio. The 1978 graduate of Sandusky High School is also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, where he served five years on active duty. He believes that citizens who earn an excellent education not only have a better chance of achieving success, but they also are better equipped to serve as leaders in the communities in which they live.

Dr. Koonce earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Norfolk State University in 1991, a master's degree in communications/urban studies from Michigan State University in 1998, and a Ph.D. in communication studies from Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in 2006.

Along with his duties as a member of the Sandusky Board of Education, Dr. Koonce also serves as second-vice president of the Sandusky NAACP and a member of the City of Sandusky's Human Relations Commission. Dr. Koonce continues to volunteer his services to help children and teens in Sandusky through his efforts with Nehemiah Partners, a Christian-based non-profit organization aimed at providing after-school tutoring, mentoring, recreation and life skills to youth.

Dr. Koonce, an adjunct faculty member at BGSU on the Firelands campus, is married and has three children. He and his wife, Marion, are the parents of a daughter, Morgan Johnson, 16, who is a junior at Sandusky High School, and two sons, Isiah Johnson, 20, who lives in Sandusky, and Rishaad Koonce, 31, who resides in Columbus.