

School Board Candidate Questionnaire

1. I have been a school board member for 16 years. During the 16 years, I have had to read and analyze the budget to make decisions on what and where the money should be spent. The first 12 years on the board, we had a budget surplus due to the balanced budget so we extra funds that was used for supplement pay for staff and supplies for the classrooms. During the four years I was not on the board, money was taken from the surplus to balance the budget. When given a lengthy budget for the system, the first thing is to read it carefully paying close attention to the line items, proposed spending and determining whether the spending is necessary at the time. A good budget is a balanced budget not taken from the surplus.
2. Even though I am not a fan of bonds, I would explain to the citizens in the district that the bonds allow the school system to make necessary upgrades to the current schools and allow us to make one-time purchases such as playground equipment, smart boards and other technology related items. Once the bond is passed, the school board must make good on their promises of purchasing new playground equipment, smart boards and whatever else was stated in the bond proposal that was distributed to the public.
3. In my view, the district has provided the resources to assist the teaching staff in raising the test scores, providing a safe environment by having resource officers in all the schools, replacing old equipment, and providing incentive for the teachers.
4. Even though I have a specific school district, I am not the school board member just for that district. I represent the entire parish so the decisions I make are for the everyone.
5. The firs thing I would do is listen to their complaint or concern and question whether they have followed chain of command meaning did they speak to the principal if it is a parent complaint or did they address the teacher if it is a principal complaint. If the chain was addressed and was a resolution was not determined, the next step would be the superintendent then the board.
6. After reading the goals for the 2025-2026 school year, I strongly believe the goals are achievable. For the goals to be achievable, more funding needs to be channeled into the school districts to support qualified teachers, tutoring programs, a true magnet school with gifted courses available to all qualifying students in the district and a partnership with the local university so we can have more students who graduate with college credit due to dual enrollment. The gifted classes are of importance because we lose so many students each year to the private schools or online school because we are not meeting them at their point of need.