

Laura Lyles

From: Steven Harris <stevharris85@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2018 11:44 AM
To: info@apluscoalition.com
Subject: Q&A

1. What experience do you have with complicated budget? When you are given a very lengthy budget for the district, what will be your process to determine if it is a good budget for the system?

My partner and I started a multi-million-dollar business (C & H Sales & rentals). I Spent 6 years with the Council on Aging, where we dealt with multi-million-dollar budgets. Lastly, I've been a pastor for the last 20-plus years dealing with budgets. What determines a good budget in a public school system is this: Personnel are the largest cost for our school districts. Hence, an understanding of a District's cost structure must start with understanding Staffing patterns and allocations. The biggest bulk of our budget is made up of salaries, benefits, contractual services, equipment and supplies. Also, having an understanding of our MFP or Minimum Foundation Program and what the forecast is will give us an understanding of our budgeting in the district. It has also been very beneficial to have a sister-in-law who deals with Fortune 500 companies as an accountant and a cousin who handles The City of Ruston's budget to answer questions.

2. In an era of more limited Financial Resources, how will you enlist support for Bond issues or public school spending from conservative voters are taxpayers with no children in public schools? How can the school board prove itself accountable to those citizens?

To be absolutely transparent about the condition of our finances with all stakeholders. I want to be intentional in being inclusive with the business community so as to have their input. My philosophy in leadership is to inspire people to get involved. "It takes teamwork to make the DreamWork".

3. In your view what has the district done well over Last 5 Years? What has the district done poorly that you would change? Please provide specific examples.

Test scores has continued to increase over the last 5 years. However, the morale of our district has continually gone down. We have Personnel who continue to leave our district complaining about a like of appreciation and mistreatment. I would like to do more in appreciating and reward them.

4. You represent a specific part of Natchitoches Parish, how will you balance the needs of your specific constituents with the needs of the overall School District?

I will always look at how does my exclusive decision for District Number #8 affect the overall school system inclusively!

5. If a parent or a principal comes to you regarding, for example, a maintenance issue at a campus or a situation involving a particular teacher, how do you see your role as a school board member and resolving that issue?

First, I understand that I am a policy maker. Secondly, as I have always done, I explain to them the proper protocol in resolving the particular matter. Thirdly, because of act 1 we are not given the privilege to engage in day-to-day operations. Moreover, I have never believed in micromanaging. This is why we hire a efficient and proficient superintendent.

6. Consider the goals of the A+ coalition, listed on the attached cover letter; do you believe those are achievable goals? Why are why not? Or any of particular importance to you? Why?

I believe that all of these goals are very obtainable. As I make myself available to many of the stakeholders in our community and specially the business community I am optimistic about the future of the Natchitoches Parish School System. I am especially excited about the direction of our dual enrollment program under Mrs

Felicia Pinkney. I believe that Natchitoches Parish School System can be the best District in the state and amongst the best in the country. However, vision is everything and I believe that with Natchitoches Parish a + coalition we are well on our way.