

D86 hopefuls outline positions

Healing divisions and running efficient meetings among topics

Where do the candidates stand on the issues?

Pamela Lannom compiled these responses from personal interviews and questionnaires.



Kevin Camden



Keith Chval



Robin Gonzales



James "Fred" Koch



Nancy Pollak

Balancing finances/program delivery

Have to deliver best educational programs possible without overtaxing residents. Believes residents are taxed proportionately for quality of service district provides.

Vision needs to reflect community's values for public education. Stewardship of taxpayer money is critical. District should encourage excellence in a responsible, reasonable manner.

Believes in being fiscally responsible and prudent with taxpayer dollars. That said, education dollars are well invested because they generate a better workforce, students and citizens. Tight budgets can push innovative thinking that saves money and serves students.

Give community options to privately fund things it really wants through a foundation. Every school district should be thinking more about preparing students for changing face of workforce over next 20 to 50 years.

Operating schools to the level the community expects costs money. Believes money invested in education translates into increased property values, more educational opportunities for students. Community input should be sought on what that level of investment should be.

Healing divisions

Board members need to set tone of respect and responsibility among themselves, administrators and the public. If public is angry and board doesn't respond promptly or at all, situation can worsen.

Board members need to get out of the way. Let administrators propose policies, goals and objectives for board consideration to show administration can be trusted. Board should be out in the community, listening strategically to constituents. Work in a unified way with entire district in mind.

Unifying the community around the schools is a great opportunity. Supports programming opportunities that give students options to attend either campus. Encourage more collaboration between staffs and community members of two schools to unify campuses. Do more to highlight achievements at South.

Issues factions are fighting about aren't huge in the large scheme of things. Still formulating ideas on how to shift focus to what is best for district as a whole and how to make both schools even better than they are today.

Board's No. 1 responsibility is to be voice of community. People want to be listened to and feel their voices are heard. Would spend time going out into community, talking to residents and sharing information. Board should set tone of respectful, honest, transparent behavior.

Efficient meetings

Supports move to one board meeting a month with facilities, curriculum and other committees meeting monthly as well. Involve community members at that level. Meetings that start at 6 p.m. and end at 1 a.m. are not fair to board members or residents.

Slate he shares with Camden, Gonzales and Pollak is committed to working together collaboratively, which will help. Follow Robert's Rules of Order to add structure to meetings. Allow superintendent to be out front. Hold board retreat to get members on the same page.

Board must discuss and debate in a healthy, civil, respectful manner to earn the trust of the community. Slate she shares with Camden, Chval and Pollak has talked about forming more action committees to provide more thoughtful decisions and tightening regular board meeting agendas.

Shorten the board agenda to focus on two to four topics and make sure board members are prepared. Schedule extra meetings if necessary. Would like to see board members engage with residents a little during public comment.

Current board often has been dysfunctional, contentious, disrespectful. Board needs to model good behavior, follow Robert's Rules of Order. Prioritize agenda items to avoid such long meetings. Appoint a timekeeper to keep discussion moving.

Single most important step

Deal with buffer zone and related matters: determining number of students in each building, managing referendum projects (if it passes) or revising question (if it fails)

Step back and re-orient the board and the administration so board is functioning in a healthy, productive way.

Providing equitable access to opportunities and options at both campuses and unifying the community around the schools.

Come together aggressively to stop factionalism in the community and focus on what is best for entire district. If the board is factionalized, the community will be factionalized.

Resolving the facilities and enrollment issues one way or the other.

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