

Memphis-Shelby County Education Association

2020 ANNUAL ELECTION

Candidate Campaign Statements

Elementary School Director – 1 Open Position (5 candidates)

Middle School Director – 1 Open Position (2 candidates)

High School Directors – 2 Open Positions (6 candidates)

CANDIDATES for ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR



DR. ALICIA BRADFIELD – English Language Arts Teacher, Cordova Elementary

My name is Dr. Alicia Bradfield. I have been teaching for over 17 years. I currently teach fourth grade English Language Arts at Cordova Elementary. I have been a member of the association since I first began teaching. I am an advocate for teachers and students. My advocacy began when I worked as a fellow in a Teaching Policy Fellowship. I worked specifically with Teacher Compensation. We worked to ensure that teachers would receive the compensation that we deserve. Our work resulted in a 3% increase during that school year.

I believe all teachers and students should get what they deserve, and I will do all that I can to make that happen. We need affordable benefits, equity in all schools, better working conditions, better resources and teaching materials, and up to date technology. I am a fellow educator who wants to make a difference for my colleagues and the students we teach. Let me be your voice. Together, we can make a difference.



JEAN W. FARMER – Physical Education Teacher, Wells Station Elementary School

My name is Jean Washington Farmer. I am a product of the Memphis City/Shelby County School District. I am a 1984 graduate of Oakhaven High School. I have been a professional teacher for 27 years. Twenty-three of those years, I have been a teacher for the Memphis City/Shelby County School District and an active member of M-SCEA.

I am currently in my fifth year at Wells Station Elementary as a Physical Education Instructor. My platform for running for Elementary School Director is to work with my colleagues to provide and exchange information, resources and support to help provide our students with effective educational skills that will enhance their lives.

My goal is to promote positive social change within our students. As educators, we have some challenging days ahead. In order to meet those challenges, we must become each other's umbrella. I am asking you to be my umbrella to keep me dry so I can work for change. I will continue to be an umbrella for the new teachers during their orientation period—a supportive team member with a voice of experience and leadership. In order to bring about positive educational change within the system, we must stand up, lift our voices, and take action. Let us all open our umbrellas.

CANDIDATES for ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIRECTOR (continued)



SHERRY HOWARD – Pre-K Teacher, Alton Elementary School

My name is Sherry Howard. I am a Native Memphian. I am a legacy Memphis City Schools and current Shelby County School Teacher. I am running for Elementary School Director. I have served and advocated for the educational needs of our community's children for over 15 years as a teacher at Graves Elementary, Sheffield Elementary, Florida-Kansas Elementary, and presently Alton Elementary as a Pre-K Teacher. I have served as the M-SCEA building representative for over eight years. I have a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Memphis and a Master of Education from Cambridge College. As a member of the Business community and owner of Miracle Enterprise, I want to continue working and advocating for the educational needs of children and teachers. I believe we have tremendous teachers, and I want to center my efforts around establishing and maintaining a structure that supports them. I believe we must re-establish morale and return harmony throughout the District. I stand on principles of Honesty, Integrity and Perseverance. I need your support. Help Me, Help You! Vote for Sherry Howard, Your Next MSCEA Elementary Director. I Will Get the Job Done!



ETHEL SHARP – Math and Science Teacher, Airways Achievement Academy

Colleagues: I am Ethel Sharp, a 27-year veteran teacher. I am currently a team member at Airways Achievement Academy where I work daily to help children whom some might have written off because of the many challenges they face. I choose to work in the alternate setting because I don't mind fighting for those that need a fighter.

I will offer you, my fellow colleagues, the same fight that I do daily for students. I could give you a long list of my accomplishments, but that would not prove to you who I really am. I am ready, willing, and able to take on the task at hand. Vote for me MSCEA BOARD ELEMENTARY DIRECTOR. I will be your voice because you deserve to be heard. Thank you!



LJILLAUNA SMITH – Second Grade Teacher, Sherwood Elementary School

My name is Ljillauna Smith and I would like to serve as an Elementary Director for MSCEA. I have been an educator for over 27 years and have served as the Social Studies Advisor for MCS and SCS. The Elementary Director position is an important part of the Association because it represents and speaks for a vast number of educators. I am committed to providing effective, responsible and active representation for teachers.

I am passionate about educator benefits, Professional Development choice options, and compensation. I know the work of educators and believe the voices of teachers should be heard and considered. Educators are capable of making meaningful choices for their classrooms. I will provide committed and professional leadership in the service of our teachers. Let me be your representative and voice for the bright future of our teachers and students. MSCEA has long been a strong voice for teachers across the district, and I will guarantee that your voice will be instrumental in our steps forward.

CANDIDATES for MIDDLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR



CHERYL L. BAILEY – Creative Writing Teacher, White Station Middle

My name is Cheryl Bailey, a graduate of the historical LeMoyne-Owen College. My parents have inspired me to become a dedicated teacher of 22 years. Being raised in a small town instilled in me family values, commitment, and caring for the community. I realize Shelby County students need to be prepared to be the change in our communities, and teachers have the power to make this happen.

My family of educators has advocated for the needs of teachers to have better resources, pay increases, affordable and equitable health insurance, and conducive work environments. It is on their shoulders that I stand as I run for your Middle School Director. I am the change we all need. I have been a dedicated union member since 1998 and an AR with M-SCEA for the last five years.

I am dedicated in bringing about awareness of the importance for educators to partake in the change that we would like to see. After having individual conversations, 91% of our staff voted for M-SCEA to represent teachers on the PECCA committee. Together, as educators, we will fight for higher pay, improved curriculums and infrastructure of classes to enhance learning, and additional initiatives for student behavior.



CRYSTAL E. HARPER – ESL and ELA Teacher, Hickory Ridge Middle

I am currently an ESL (English as a Second Language) and ELA (English Language Arts) teacher at Hickory Ridge Middle School. I am also the RTI2-B (Response to Intervention, Instruction, and Behavior) lead at my school. In addition to serving as an Association Representative of the Memphis Shelby County Education Association (MSCEA) for my school, my previous MSCEA experience includes:

- member of the IPD Committee (2019-2020)
- Middle School Director for MSCEA (2016-2018)
- past participant and coordinator of the Emerging Leaders Academy
- participant numerous times for "Day on the Hill" legislative events
- former member of the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council

I am extremely passionate about education, literacy, legislation, teacher policy, and serving others. I was a member of the first teacher policy cohort with Teach Plus and recently served on the SCS 2019-2020 ELA textbook adoption committee where several educators underwent a rigorous, collaborative research process in finding appropriate language arts texts for teachers and students, Grades 6-12. I have also worked and taught at the Memphis Literacy Council, the University of Memphis, and countries including Japan and the Czech Republic. I have also had the opportunity to do mission work in Haiti. If given the opportunity to serve as Middle School Director for M-SCEA, I will do my very best.

CANDIDATES for HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR



SONIA D. BROWN – Government Teacher, Wooddale High

My name is Sonia D. Brown. I am married to Quincy Earl Brown and the mother of two. I am also the grandmother of Chloe Osby, who is the reason I work hard to make sure the education of the children of Memphis continues to be strong and continues to improve.

I graduated from Oakhaven High School in 1979. I graduated from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas in 1984, and received my Master's and Specialist degrees from Cumberland University. I taught at Snowden Middle School for 22 years and currently teach Government at Wooddale High where I am also the Senior Sponsor. I serve many roles at Wooddale which I truly enjoy. I feel that all children can learn, and all children must attend school.



BEVERLY GRIFFIN – Lifetime Wellness Teacher, Kingsbury High School

Hello, I am Beverly Griffin and currently teach at Kingsbury High School. As a Lifetime Wellness teacher and former PLC Coach, I know firsthand the importance of needing and wanting a representative to ensure concerns are heard and represented. Also, I have been teaching and been a member of the Association for almost 14 years. I understand that it is essential to have someone that will advocate for you with the knowledge to make substantial contributions with each of you in mind.

As an educator, I am a firm believer that the only true way out of poverty is through education. So, it is important that the people who serve as the catalyst for facilitating this charge have a voice and resources needed to be effective. High school is the 4th quarter of the game in a student's life. We have our playbook and now it's time to execute to ensure our students have the tools needed to be successful beyond high school.

One of my favorite quotes by Helen Keller is "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!" I ask you to vote Beverly Griffin as your High School Director.



DORIS JONES – Biology Teacher, Hamilton High School

Hello, Colleagues,

My name is Doris Williams-Jones and I want to be your M-SCEA High School Director.

I have taught for over 15 years and served as an Association Representative.

Dedication, integrity and transparent accountability are my objectives while serving as your HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE!

Vote Doris Williams-Jones

CANDIDATES for HIGH SCHOOL DIRECTOR (continued)



SARAH K. HARPER – Special Education Teacher, Germantown High School

Greetings, Fellow Educators...

I am Sarah Kennedy-Harper, a proud member of the Memphis Shelby County Education Association since 1988. I have served in multiple capacities and represented the Association nationally.

With my skills and education in Organization and Leadership, it would be my honor to serve and work as a board member, helping to build on the great work this Organization triumphs in, fighting for educators, and keeping this organization moving upward and forward in the 21st Century. “Let me help MSCEA take it to the Next Level.”



DERRY PHILLIPS – English Teacher, Whitehaven High School

My name is Derry Phillips. I am an innovative educator, seeking to offer exceptional teacher leadership practices. My administrative experience, communication, organizational and motivational skills make me a viable candidate.

I am a native Memphian and a proud graduate of Whitehaven High School Class of 2002, where I currently teach English. I began my professional career in 2009, leading various student support initiatives. I hold degrees from Prairie View A&M University (Texas), Freed-Hardeman University, and Ole Miss. I am a strong advocate for teachers. Above all, I am an advocate for children and professionally committed to our students in SCS. I serve as an AR at my school, am currently Sergeant at Arms on the MSCEA Board, and serve on various committees throughout the district.

I believe MSCEA motivates, serves, communicates, educates, and advocates for our colleagues, and that is what I stand for! #EDUCATORSTRONG



ERIKA SUGARMON – Social Studies Teacher, White Station High School

Greetings:

For over 20 years, I have had the honor of educating over 5,000 students; advocating for educators, parents, and students; engaging in conversations with community leaders about the state of public education; and holding elected officials accountable when they have failed us. Now, with your help, I want to take a leadership role with M-SCEA as your High School Director!

You supported me when I ran for Memphis City Council, Super District 9; I need your support once again. Because of your support, I received 49% or over 22,500 votes. As a progressive candidate, I will bring that same tenacity and ideas when I sit at the table along with Keith Williams and Jolie Madihalli. This is only possible if you give me your vote!

I am highly qualified to serve you. My credentials include three degrees: BBA, MPA, and MAT. I have been an M-SCEA member and AR for over 20 years. I serve on the Memphis-Shelby County PACE Council, Orange Mound Task Force, and WILLOW Board, and serve as Youth Village Council Chair.

Thank you for your continued support and your vote. I look forward to advocating and serving you on the M-SCEA Board of Directors.