

Thanks to the Republican Party of Georgetown County for this opportunity. The School Board Trustees are nonpartisan seats so everyone can vote for the qualified candidates in their districts or at-large. Be reminded the at-large seats are not open in this general election.

1. I am **Sandra Johnson**. I have lived in the North Santee area of Georgetown County for many years. My son graduated from Andrews High School in 1994.

2. The school board trustee's job is to approve the recommended curricula as deemed appropriate by the various employees who are experts in these areas. The superintendent reviews and recommends the curricula and the board votes to implement the programs. COVID19 has impeded progress for some of the Career and Technical Education programs but the director is doing her best to make the hands-on portions available using CDC guidelines. I feel our county graduation rate of 87% shows we have the right curricula in place. I feel with our long-term planning and maintenance programs in place, we are doing our absolute best during this pandemic. Our referendum included technology upgrades for all our facilities. Our partnership with Horry-Georgetown Technical college is providing training for careers we never dreamed about.

3. The textbooks are selected statewide by a committee of teachers and administrators. The recommended texts are physically brought to each area for review and inspection by the public and local teachers and administrators. Announcements are made to the public. I attended a few where the books are on display for all to see. There are ways to notify the State Department of Education about your approval or rejection. This is a yearly process. This year's process may have been different due to the pandemic.

4. I made it a point to attend school functions as often as possible during my tenure. It is hard to get to every single one at every single school, so I focused on the schools in my district. Many times, these functions were held on the same day at the same times, so I did not get to some I genuinely wanted to attend. Many of the regularly scheduled programs, such as Grandparents' Lunch and awards ceremonies were cancelled due to the pandemic, so I missed interacting with the schools. Visitors are now restricted due to the pandemic, so I will not get to see them often. I am proud the graduation ceremonies were held with the chance for seniors to walk across the stage and receive their diplomas. The ceremonies were live streamed as well recorded to benefit those extended family members who could not attend physically. Covid19 has caused many innovations and disruptions. The facilities needs have been determined and were incorporated in our long-term planning and maintenance plans. The bond referendum has provided for the many improvements that have been completed and are in progress. I have always been open to hearing from our stakeholders about their concerns, remembering that as an individual I can do nothing. But working with the Board as a unit, we have accomplished many of our goals for this District.

5. I consider the most important issue to be funding. Some of the present state officials do not prioritize our education funding systems. It has even sent funds to private schools when, in my opinion, the public schools should be fully funded first. I do and will continue to contact our representatives and senators to request their help in fully funding our public schools.

6. Georgetown County School District supports school choice and provides for it for our students. Any student in a below average rated school can opt to attend a higher rated school in the district. The

district is required to provide transportation to the desired school. This has been in place since I was on the board.

7. SC could do a much better job of funding our schools which have almost never been fully funded according to the funding formulas. The funding schemes/streams are too complicated to go into here. Several attempts have been made or proposed to streamline the process, but because public education does not seem to be a priority, it fails to be considered. Different entities have suggested ways to do so, but again, in my opinion, it is not important to those who could fix the problem. Act 388 (another item too complicated to be explained here) was a death knell to funding our public schools.

8. I would absolutely support teaching the constitution if it is taught in an unbiased manner. I am not sure that could be done at this time in America.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Johnson

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