

1. Question: What is your history with the school system/school board?

Answer: I am a retired teacher. I taught for one year in Greenwood School District 50 before moving to Georgetown County. I taught at both Rosemary Middle School and Andrews Elementary School between 1990 and 2007. Between 2007 and 2010, I worked at Carvers Bay Middle School as a technology coach. Between 2010 and my retirement in 2018, I worked for the Berkeley County School District as a district-office administrator.

Additionally, I am the parent of two graduates of Andrews High School.

2. Question: Are you familiar with the curriculum at each level?

Answer: Broadly speaking, yes; however, I am most familiar with the elementary school English Language Arts curriculum. When I worked for Berkeley County School District, I was on a team that developed the implementation of the new College and Career Readiness standards. I specifically dealt with upper elementary school English Language Arts. I have a general awareness of the College and Career Readiness standards.

In the Georgetown County School District, I would like to see a greater emphasis on technological literacy and Career and Technology Education (CATE). This will enable our students to be prepared to be engaged citizens. I will also advocate that administrators and teachers place students at the forefront of all decision making. This emphasis on student-centered decision-making will enable our students to succeed.

3. Question: How and by whom are district textbooks selected?

Answer: Textbooks are provided by the South Carolina Department of Education. The acquisition schedule for the replacement of textbooks is largely determined by the state Department of Education. The state Department of Education, when it acquires new textbooks, will allow the district's teachers to select from a pre-screened list which textbooks to use in the classrooms. Textbooks on the adoption list are approved by the State Board of Education. Local district committees meet to review the textbooks and share those reviews with teachers at each school. Once the reviews are done, teachers vote on the desired textbook. Textbooks up for adoption are required to be on public display for a period of time before the local school board votes on the local textbook adoption. I do not know what acquisition schedules the South Carolina Department of Education is currently contemplating for new textbooks, especially right now as budgets are strained.

4. Question: Other than attending school board meetings, how active will you be in the education process?

Answer: I will be active in the school district, attending as many school functions featuring students from my district as possible. I will regularly visit schools where students who reside in my district attend so that I can understand the needs of students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators in that school.

5. Question: Other than COVID-19, what is the most important issue facing our district and how will you address it?

Answer: The greatest issue facing the Georgetown County School District is the need to support our teachers and administrators so that they can make student-centered decisions.

6. Questions: What is your understanding of school choice and do you support it?

Answer: School choice is a movement that advocates opening alternative environments for student learning. Examples of school choice opportunities that students in Georgetown County School District can participate in include the PACE dual-enrollment program that is operated between Georgetown County School District and Horry Georgetown Technical College, the opportunities at the Advanced Manufacturing Center at Horry Georgetown Technical College for which students in Georgetown County School District can receive scholarships through the Bunnelle Foundation, and the Coastal Montessori Charter School. There are other forms of alternative education environments that fall within the umbrella term of school choice; however, as a school board member, I will be committed to making the Georgetown County School District's schools the best learning environment for my constituents.

7. Question: What is your understanding of school funding?

Answer: According to the Comprehensive Annual Report of Georgetown County School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, about 50% of the school district's revenues came from local taxes, about 40% of the school district's revenues came from state grants, and about 7% of the school district's revenues came from federal grants. The remainder of the revenue came from miscellaneous sources, including intragovernmental transfers.

8. Question: Would you support teaching the Constitution?

Answer: Teaching the United States and South Carolina Constitutions is required by state laws and regulations. Sections 59-29-10, 59-29-130, and 59-29-130 of the South Carolina Code require the local board of education and board of trustees to ensure the teaching of the United States and South Carolina Constitutions. Additionally, Social Studies Standards 4.2.P, 4.5.CC, 8.2.P, 8.3.CO, MWH.2.CO, USHC.1.CE, and every standard in the USG curriculum require the teaching of the United States Constitution. As a school board member, I would be tasked by state law with ensuring that this curriculum, which includes the United States Constitution, is taught.

Additionally, I believe that a strong grounding in our constitutional order is necessary for our students to become engaged and informed citizens. I will ensure that the United States and South Carolina Constitutions are taught in the Georgetown County School District.