

Stephanie Malone Mitchell Response:

Question 1:

I believe I am qualified for the position of School Board Member in District 2 for numerous reasons. First, I believe my background as a Certified Public Accountant with over fourteen years of accounting experience, including governmental, will help in finding and reducing unnecessary spending, tackling budget issues, and ensuring that necessary programs are adequately funded. Secondly, I am a decision maker. Serving on a school board means that one is willing to stand up for the public interest and do what is right for the future of our children. To be a school board member, to me, means making decisions that will have a positive impact on our school children, not on the individuals representing the school board. Decisions made by the school board encompass a wide range of issues, and the people making those decisions need to be able to make informed and effective decisions for the betterment of our school system. Thirdly, I believe I would be effectual in setting goals and establishing policies which will benefit the children of the Fayette County School system. Education is the foundation and key to success. A good educational system is crucial to building a better Fayette County. Fourthly, I will assist in our community by providing support and establishing a good working relationship with parents, teachers, and everyone who, like me, have a stake in our county. I also will assist in providing an understanding of our school system and help lead the community in demanding a better education for all children in Fayette County. Lastly, being born and raised here and a product of the Fayette County School System, I have a vested interest in this county. I was blessed to have teachers and administrators to pour good values and the tools necessary for me to go off to college and graduate with a bachelor's as well as a master's degree. I believe it is my charge to pour back into the lives of others so they may be afforded the same opportunities.

Question 2:

- A. The two of the most pressing issues and how I plan to improve/strengthen those areas are as follows:
- 1) Budget – I plan to review all areas of the budget and use my accounting experience to help reduce unnecessary spending and adequately fund necessary programs to ensure the success of our students.
 - 2) Test Scores – I would like to start a weekly tutoring program to help our children in subjects such as math and English. I will also work with the new STEP program which supports mentoring our children and helping them to find the available tools and resources that are in place to help them once they graduate from high school.
- B. I believe all children should have the same opportunity to a good education. I will be proud of the day when children are able to go school and be afforded a great education and an opportunity to learn with technology regardless of what they look like. We all belong to the Human Race.
- C. I believe teachers, parents, and the community should be in control of schools as they know our children's immediate needs. Our children are influenced and guided the most by the people they see in their everyday lives.
- D. I would rank the following problems facing our nation's schools in the following order: 1) lack of accountability, 2) financing, 3) regulation, 4) lack of focus on core subjects, 5) lack of parental choice.