

2016 School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Please submit responses to WCRP by June 18.

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1. A. What do you think are the primary roles and responsibilities of the Williamson County School Board (WSB)? *The primary roles and responsibilities of the school board are defined in State Law, TCA 49-2-203. They include; hiring and evaluating the Director of Schools, approving tenure, approving the budget and developing board policies.*
B. How do you describe the authority of the WCSB? *Same as above.*

2. Currently Williamson County Schools (WCS) has been designated as one of the Intermediate Districts in Tennessee (2nd highest category ranking). Tennessee's three measured areas include raising proficiency levels, narrowing achievement gaps and guaranteeing growth for all students. If a member of the WCSB, what would you want to see happen in an effort to achieve the designation of an Exemplary School District (the highest category ranking)?
WCS is the top performing school district in Tennessee. We have the highest ACT scores in the State and we are always at the top of the list in every subject area and grade on the State's standardized test. WCS even has the highest test scores in the areas that the State made their determination, which is students with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency. The methodology that the State employs to determine its levels of competence for districts is strictly based on student performance on the State test and is rooted in the Federal guidelines. The State's model does not take into consideration the broad spectrum of learning opportunities that WCS provides. It has a limited evaluation instrument that cannot measure success beyond its narrow scope.

3. Besides funding, what do you think makes the biggest difference in student achievement? Please list at least three and no more than five key factors. *Student achievement is based on many factors such as....*
- A. *Parent involvement and interest in their student's education*
 - B. *Students eager to learn and achieve*
 - C. *Caring and dedicated teachers, administrators and support staff*
 - D. *Offering a broad spectrum of courses to provide multi-faceted learning opportunities*
 - E. *Engaging community businesses and organizations*
4. Should standardized student tests and/or assessments associated with a percentage of the student's grade be available for parental review? Please explain. *Prior to the tests, sample questions should be available for all to see. After the test, the specific questions should be available for parents to see along with their student's individual results.*
5. A. Should standardized student test results be used in teacher evaluations to determine possible pay increases for teachers and/or teaching and leadership position promotions? If yes, please explain. If no, what should determine a teacher's pay increase and/or promotion? *if the test results are directly attributable to a specific teacher they can be part of the teacher's evaluation.*
- B. What other ways would you want to reward great teachers? *Great teachers should be rewarded thru opportunities for advancement, further education, school leadership positions, recognition, etc.*
6. Do you believe that WCS can exhibit better transparency and accountability in the use of financial resources? Please explain your answer. *WCS conducts public work sessions, puts financial information on line, televises meetings, has multiple media outlets covering the meetings and conducts all of its budget meetings in the sunshine. If someone has any questions about our accountability and financial resources, we all strive to provide that information.*

7. What do you believe to be the top three capital needs for the future of WCS? *The top three capital needs for the future are: 1. Facilities, 2. Technology Infrastructure, 3. Maintenance of the previous two items.*
8. Will you do anything, or have you done anything, with the selection of WCS curriculum? Please explain. *My expertise is in administration, operations and management of school systems. I trust Dr. Looney and the professional employees hired by WCS who have degrees in instruction and curriculum design to develop our curriculum to fit within the State guidelines. My expectation is that they will develop our scope and sequences and include additional rigorous "Williamson County Expectations." Designing the curriculum taught in our schools is not the role or responsibility of a school board.*
9. How do you believe the WCSB should be managing the privacy and safety issues of students? *All student information is protected under Federal rules and regulations (FERPA) and all staff members are trained on these required protections for student information. In addition, our district's acceptable use agreement follows the recommendations of the Consortium on School Networking (COSN) and the national organization of state councils on education technology. (SETA) WCS will continue to train all employees on this subject every year.*
10. According to the Tennessee State Department of Education's Report card on their website, there were 10.4% (4,107 pupils) special needs students in school year 2014-2015. This number is projected to increase yearly, what should WCSB consider doing to best address this population? *Because of the level of services that we currently provide to our special needs students, WCS attracts more and more families to our area for their education. We must continue to expand our training of our current and future employees and continue our proactive approach to attracting the best employees we can to this critical need area to maintain our high level of services.*

11. Do you support using Williamson County tax payer dollars to hire lobbyist to lobby your State Legislative Delegation? Please explain why you do or don't support tax payer dollars being spent that way.

We do not need to lobby our own Williamson County State Legislative Delegation with tax payer dollars hired lobbyists. We have full access in person with them letting them know our concerns on proposed legislation and asking for their support to introduce legislation to help WCS achieve.

12. Please identify what you consider priority items and issues not addressed in this questionnaire.

I consider priority items for

Williamson County to be:

- a. *Planning for growth*
- b. *Maintaining fiscally responsible budgets*
- c. *Recruiting, training and retaining the best employees*
- d. *Improving Board relations*
- e. *Continuing the WCS tradition of excellence.*