



QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

- 1. What is your professional experience?** I started my career in finance working at a mutual fund company where I helped Financial Advisors to understand investment products, worked on a portion of the NBA Player's Association Retirement Plan as well on accounts for players of the San Antonio Spurs. I was also on the distribution team of one of the countries first 529 College Savings Plans. I eventually ended up at Morgan Stanley where I managed the Spanx retirement plan as well as the Sara Blakely Endowment Fun. In my twenty's I also started my first of what would be many businesses. Over the last 23 years I have founded or co-founded businesses in the following industries:
 - * box and packaging supply company
 - * moving company/trucking
 - * trash hauling
 - * a non-profit thrift store (to receive donations from people moving) where I employed all developmentally disabled adults
 - * an art studio that I franchised (as the Franchisor) to over 20 locations up the East Coast, including six locations in Florida
 - * The World's Most Famous Brewery (formerly the Pallet Pub) on Main Street where I have worked hard to be a year round quality destination and to advocate for Main Street
 - * Salty Dog Vacations in Daytona Beach
 - * Salty Dog Long Term Property Management in Daytona Beach
 - * Goodrich In't Properties-I invest in properties around the country that I either rent out or flip.
 - * Girl's Gone Adventuring Retreats-Adventure and leadership retreats for women
 - * Author of The Boss Lady Investor Book
 - * Hopcycles Daytona
- 2. Do you have experience operating and managing a budget? What was the size and scope?** I have managed numerous multi-million dollar budgets and accounts. The investment division of my business manages around ten million dollars annually. While this is nowhere near the massive over a billion dollar budget of the School District, it has given me a strong baseline to get started. I have already started to build a team of some of the brightest people in town that have managed even larger budgets to help me when I get elected.
- 3. While in office, what will be your top priorities?**
 1. Financial review-I want to deep dive into what we are doing right, wrong and what we can do better. How could over \$40M be misappropriated leading to the loss of arts and music programs in some schools? Why are our teachers paid the lowest average salary in the country? Where do we have room for improvements in spending and saving? The Governor just announced more teacher funding, I want to make sure Volusia gets our share here and in other areas of funding.
 2. CTE-where are the gaps that need to be filled. What local businesses want to work with our schools to provide additional pathways and supports to programs. What programs/apprenticeships/certifications/internships/vocational programs can we add? How can we collaborate more with the existing programs between the local schools and universities? How can we work better with the aerospace industry to provide our young learners opportunities to high paying local jobs should that interest them?
Additional avenues I will be working on: Access for ESE kids-are there resources we can access, resources we should be getting but aren't? Gifted programs-my district needs our highest academic achievers to have access to gifted programs (currently not available in any elementary school in my district) so that they don't lose interest. How can School Board meetings be run more efficiently and with more of a focus on policy and budget? How do we mend the gap between schools, administration, parents, teachers and the district so that we can get more done rather than working against each other.
- 4. What influenced you to run for office?** My absolute love of Volusia County. As a mom and someone involved in real estate, improving our schools is a missing gap to increased property values, attracting and retaining great businesses and employees that want to work and live in our area. As an employer we need to do better by our kids so that they are ready with the needed tools to be effective employees that can find meaningful employment locally. Someone strong has to step up and lead our schools to become known as great schools, not places

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where you don't want your kids to go. I have the knowledge, leadership, servant's heart and love of community that happens to be the perfect combination for right now in our Volusia Schools.

5. **What is your view on the overall function of a School Board?** To oversee policy, budget, the superintendent and the school attorney. The School Board should not be involved in the day-to-day operations of the schools, but rather, should be there as a conduit to make sure schools and students are getting the resources they need to be successful.

6. **How should/can the school board and local business community work together?** Through additional CTE courses, partnerships, internships, career days, etc. The local business community loves to be involved and helped and just needs to know where and how they can help and they will. Right now, there is limited communication within the business community in regards to our schools, unless you happen to have a child in school. I intend to be the advocate in the business community for all the things going on in our schools and to share where we need help from our generous and active business community.

7. **Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** I surround myself with positive, intelligent and rational people to make the best decisions I can make. I intend to create a (actually I have already started) "cabinet" of sorts with bankers, CPAs, lenders, former college Board Members/Trustees, local business owners/parents/teachers/administrators and advocates in fields such as abuse, addiction, literacy and other areas where experts can help me best understand the issue. I am exceptionally good at enlisting core experts to help me understand areas where I may not be strong. I am open and able to learn. This is a massive job. As an employer of thousands of people as well as oversight of a school system of over 60k kids and a massive budget, we have to have someone there with the resources to get expert advice.

Note: Candidates were given a maximum of 250 words per question. Responses have been copied and pasted directly from Google Forms.