



# QUESTIONNAIRE & RESPONSES

FIRST NAME:  LAST NAME:

SEEKING TO BE ELECTED TO:

- 1. What is your professional experience?** Volusia County teacher, assistant principal, and principal at the elementary and secondary levels. I was a proud principal for twenty-nine years.
- 2. Do you have experience operating and managing a budget? What was the size and scope?** I was the Mayor of Ormond Beach for two terms, a member of the Volusia County Council for two terms and have served on the Volusia County School Board for two terms. These budgets have ranged from the hundreds of million to over a billion dollars. In addition, as a principal I was in charge of my operating budget which was more than \$2 million annually.
- 3. While in office, what will be your top priorities?** My top priority is the safety and security of employees and students. I want to ensure graduating students are prepared to enter the work force, the military, college, or become successful entrepreneurs. Early learning is critical. Therefore, I am expecting to see more improvement in the learning gains and school readiness skills for pre-k through third grade students. My overall goal is to make the Volusia County School District the best in Florida. We are trending up quickly so this goal is within reach. Let's make it happen.
- 4. What influenced you to run for office?** Public service must be in my DNA. While serving as the principal of Tomoka Elementary School, a few parents asked me whether I would consider running for the Ormond Beach City Commission. I always had an interest in government so In 1995, I ran for city commissioner and won. This started a dual 15 year career of my serving as a city commissioner, a mayor, and a county council member while being a principal at Tomoka and Ormond Beach Middle School.  
After I retired in 2013, I was eager to continue to my work as an educator and public official so running for the school board in 2016 was a natural fit. I was elected and re-elected in 2020.  
Everyday I am still thinking about what we can do to help more children reach their potential. My entire adult life I have assisted teachers, students, parents, guardians, and grandparents. Now with COVID in the rearview mirror and artificial intelligence in place, I am more energized than ever to make a positive difference in the lives of children.
- 5. What is your view on the overall function of a School Board?** The Board develops and refines policy. We should work as a team and make decisions which reflect the consensus of the Board. We need to be respectful to each other as well as to members of the public and to employees. The school board should be the most professional of all the elected bodies. The Board should be modeling how mature adults act and how local government needs to operate. As a Board, we only hire and evaluate two employees: the superintendent and the board attorney. We must not meddle in the business of school operations or interfere with the administrative role of our Superintendent.
- 6. How should/can the school board and local business community work together?** The Board and the business community need to get together and share thoughts about how we can help each other. We need businesses, realtor organizations, and chambers of commerce to help market the great things our school district has achieved and continues to do. Great public schools attract families and successful companies. For example, in Orange County the realtors association sponsors all of the performing and visual arts programs. These have become outstanding magnet programs and have increased the number of high performing students attending Orange County Public Schools.
- 7. Who do you look to for advice and consult when making decisions that will affect the public?** I consult with a wide variety of people representing different age groups and social demographics. I learned a long time ago, a lot of noise can be created by a small group of like-minded people. Therefore, I take my time to ask questions to those who are involved with the school district and those, who are not. As a principal, I always took time to understand both sides of an issue. As a school board member, I still do.