ROCKINGHAM COUNTY - BOARD OF EDUCATION (5 AT-LARGE SEATS)

Don Anderson

Lives in: Stokesdale

Contact: don_barb1995@yahoo.com; Don Anderson for Rockingham County School Board on Facebook

Age: 64

Profession: Retired

Highest degree earned: Associate's degree in business

Leadership Experience: Owner/manager, D. Anderson Landscaping; manager of large trucking firm for more than 30 years.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of the board? I believe in having an honest and trustworthy approach to all issues and matters on the agenda.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Teaching those children who cannot read before graduation, and security.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? By listening to our educators and investigating the situation, then coming together to make improvements.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? Yes, Common Core is too complicated and time-consuming for our teachers.

Louis Dew



Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: dewlj@bellsouth.net

Age: 69

Profession: Retired

Highest degree earned: Two years college

Leadership Experience: Supply manager for blanket division, Fieldcrest Mills

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of the board? I was born and educated in Rockingham County. My children were educated in Rockingham County. I know how important the educational system is for the success of our children. I will work to keep our educational system strong.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? The biggest challenge is finding the financial resources to give all students the best education possible so they can reach their full potential in whatever goal they choose.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? The board can help to ensure that the educational needs of all students are met. The classroom should have an interesting and learning environment.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? No opinion.

Tony Doom



Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: awdoom@gmail.com

Age: 64

Profession: Retired from Rockingham County Schools

Highest degree earned: Two years at Rockingham Community College

Leadership Experience: Staff sergeant, U.S. Air Force; sergeant, N.C.National Guard; fill-in supervisor, Fieldcrest Mills machine shop. More than 20 years with the Rockingham County Schools.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of the board? Elected officials must understand they are elected by the taxpayers and be willing to listen and act according to what is being said. A willingness to keep an open mind and using a common-sense approach when making decisions for the taxpayers of the county.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Budget shortfall and the current friction between the school board and the county commissioners.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? To encourage more proactive positive communication between students and teachers.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? Yes. State standards need to be upgraded, but Common Core is not the answer. The state was too quick to jump onboard this curriculum without understanding how it works.

Hal Griffin (i)



Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: None listed

Age: 65

Profession: Retired, dean of students, Rockingham Community College

Highest degree earned: Master's of education, counseling

Leadership Experience: Past president, N.C. Student Development Association; chairman, Church Council, Main Street United Methodist Church; chairman, Admissions Recruiters Educational Association.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of the board? As vice chairman of the Rockingham County Board of Education, I have had the opportunity to observe the many issues and concerns, as well as accomplishments, associated with the local, state and federal practices. The real value is learning that every issue has more than one side and all views need to be heard.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Budget! Since 2007 we have lost $24 million of public funding. We've lost teacher, teacher assistant and administrative positions. We've been unable to buy textbooks. And yet the demands are higher than ever to ensure student achievement.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? We have implemented numerous programs to enhance graduation rates (and, thus, reduce dropout rates) over the last four years. The real key is to intervene early in the students' development to curtail behaviors and attitudes not conducive to student achievement and to offer positive programs on their behalf.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? It remains to be seen what impact the recent decision by the legislature to rewrite the curriculum will be. Common Core offered the best chance to date to move student learning from memorization to comprehension and understanding material.

Emily Hayduk



Lives in: Eden

Contact: EmilyHaydukforEducation@gmail.com; facebook.com/EmilyHaydukforEducation

Age: 22

Profession: Homemaker

Highest degree earned: High school diploma

Leadership experience: I have served on various committees in my church, and I am the outgoing treasurer for the Rockingham County Federated Republican Women's Club.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of the board? Prior experience can be beneficial, but a fresh set of eyes is a great advantage. I have attended many board meetings over the past couple years and am confident new members would be a great asset and not a hindrance.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? State and federal regulation.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? By not continuing to erode the value of a high school diploma by easing graduation requirements and shuffling students through.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? Yes. Education policy should be decided on a local level so that families have control over the monies spent and the quality of education their children receive. Common Core is a shift away from local control.

Virginia Hoover

Lives in: Madison

Contact: vhoover1@triad.rr.com

Age: 62

Profession: Retired educator

Highest degree earned: Master of school administration, UNCG

Leadership Experience: Rockingham County Board of Education, Gov. Mike Easley's appointee to Commission of Drop Out Prevention, chairwoman of commissions within North Carolina Association of Education, and president of Scholarship and Education Ministry at Sharon Baptist Church in Stoneville.

What is the value of prior elected experience? If you have none, how will you overcome the lack of experience to be a successful member of the board? The value of prior experience is priceless to me. I know in the fullest measure what I am undertaking in seeking the position to serve.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Budgetary issues — having the funds to do what is best for our children. Class size is a major factor in teaching and reaching every student. Overcrowded classrooms will not produce positive results.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? The school board can improve graduation and dropout rates by implementing innovative educational programs that meet the needs of students who learn best in a nontraditional classroom setting.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? No, I do not support the state's decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum. Yes, I do agree there are some areas that need "tweaking." I believe in having a curriculum that affords our students the skills and knowledge to be competitive in a global arena.