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

David King

Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: dfk1103@gmail.com

Age: 42

Profession: Manager, N.C. Department of Public Safety

Highest degree earned: Bachelor's degree

Leadership experience: I currently manage 60 employees with the N.C. Department of Public Safety in Rockingham, Stokes and Surry counties. In this role, I have also been selected to serve on the committee that establishes policy for the entire state to follow regarding offender supervision.

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? Although I have no prior elected experience, I do have 20 years of government experience and managing people. I do not feel someone with prior elected experience makes them more qualified, and with this many people running, it appears many others feel the same way.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? There are several challenges I would like to address as a member of the board: funding reallocation to make sure there are appropriate classroom sizes, parent involvement, bullying and the elimination of "teaching to the tests."

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? I believe one of the more important positions but often overlooked or under-appreciated is the academic adviser. If staffed appropriately with an acceptable student-to-adviser ratio, these professionals can intervene and become more proactive rather than reactive.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? I do support the rewriting of Common Core. The important thing to monitor now is making sure we establish a curriculum that covers the gaps and is more age-appropriate for students, especially at the elementary level.

Lorie McKinney (i)



Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: loriebmckinney@bellsouth.net

Age: 43

Profession: Cosmetologist

Highest degree earned: Licensed cosmetologist and Master Helix designer

Leadership Experience: I have worked with the public for 24-plus years. I have served on numerous school system committees: Student Health Advisory Board, Keystone for Cops, Parent Advisory Board; helped with PTA functions, got sponsors for school events and coordinated after school functions.

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 know what the duties are for a public school board member. I have made valuable connections with our representatives and school board members in other counties.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? The budget cuts that our state and local government have handed down to us.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? In my opinion, smaller class size, letting our children know that we care about them and having the best, highly qualified teachers in our classrooms can and will make a difference.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? The Common Core is a set of standards for our teachers to teach by. It has developed continuity across our country. Our teachers have had a high set of standards to teach by for many years.

Allison Ormond



Lives in: Eden

Contact: aormond04@gmail.com; @NCTOY2003 on Twitter and www.facebook.com/AllisonHuffmanOrmondforRCSBoardofEducation

Age: 48

Profession: Educator

Highest degree earned: Ph.D. in teacher education and development, UNCG

Leadership Experience: 2003 North Carolina Teacher of the Year; Teacher Adviser, N.C. State Board of Education; former Gov. Mike Easley's Teacher Advisory Council; N.C. State Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Council; N.C. Education Policy Fellowship Program alumni; co-author, N.C. Professional Teaching Standards; UNCG School of Education Advisory Board; UNCG master teacher in residence; National Board-certified teacher.

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've never run for an elected position; however, my 25 years experience in education as a teacher, teacher leader and member of educational boards and organizations state and nationwide whereby I participated in decision-making and policy making to support students, teachers and families of North Carolina will support my success.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Class size, high school literacy and community engagement pose challenges for Rockingham County Schools. To continue offering a quality, global education for all students under current economics and school funding reductions, the Board of Education needs to think creatively and strategically about policies and programs it implements and collaborate productively with local government/organizations.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? Increasing graduation rates and reducing dropout rates require strategies K-12. At the secondary level, the "high school options" that are currently offered should be expanded to engage and support our students in a range of curriculum/program options that will prepare them for post-secondary education and career fields of interest.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? Common Core is a set of standards, not a curriculum. Decisions about how/what to teach are primarily local decisions. I don't support the repeal of CCSS. CCSS set high-level goals, promote critical thinking skills and allow deeper content knowledge, which prepare all students for success beyond high school.

Ronald Price (i)

Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: rfprice44@yahoo.com; ronprice foreducation on Facebook; http://ronprice.blogspot.com/

Age: 70

Profession: Retired IMS manager, AT&T

Highest degree earned: Advanced electronics

Leadership Experience: Past president, PTSA, Fairfax, Va.; district manager, Mid Atlantic District Braegen Corp.; manager of AT&T IMS.

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 have been on the Rockingham County Board of Education for eight years as we have gone through the 2008 recession and economic downturn. My business experience and technology background has been of great benefit in working on the problems of the school district.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Improving education so our graduates will be globally competitive, ready to compete in the work place.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? Keep the students interested and engaged by giving them challenges and opportunities. A good example of this is the academies the superintendent has implemented for health care, firefighting and emergency-response training.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? Yes. Common Core was introduced with very little information and no pilot testing. It was created by noneducators with goals other than education. Initially, there were only two subjects taught, and the test scores dropped 50 percent for these subjects. It was a disaster.

Eric Smith

Lives in: Reidsville

Contact: ehwelding@gmail.com

Age: 40

Profession: Welder/educator

Highest degree earned: College diploma

Leadership Experience: Past president of Leaksville Moravian Men's Fellowship; Leaksville Moravian Church Board of Trustees member; at-large member of Libertarian Party N.C.

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? We have elected many folks with prior elected experience, and that has got us nowhere. It's time for some fresh ideas.

What is the biggest challenge facing your school district? Aging buildings and how to replace them.

How can the school board improve graduation and dropout rates? Reducing the amount of noninstructional time for teachers and allowing them to do what they do best.

Do you support the state's recent decision to rewrite the Common Core curriculum? Why or why not? Yes. Education is best done on a local level, and the federal government has no constitutional authority to control education.