



**Candidate Questionnaire - School Board Member  
August 2022 Primary Election**

Your name: Jackie Keay  
Your email address: [jacqualene.keay@gmail.com](mailto:jacqualene.keay@gmail.com)  
Your phone number: 239-298-0395  
Your age: 53  
Today's date: 3 Jun 22

**What year did you move to Southwest Florida, and where were you living previously?**

I was born in the Bahamas, and I moved to Naples when I was about 6 years old. I grew up in Naples and graduated from Lely High School in 1988. I joined the Army to escape poverty.

**What is your educational background and work experience?**

I have a master's degree in psychology, and I am currently studying financial planning. I homeschooled my children for 10 years because I wanted them to have a quality, world-class education. I also taught at Mason Classical Academy for two years.

**Describe your community and School District activities. How will those experiences benefit you as a School Board member?**

Since returning to Naples in 2015, I have been actively engaged in volunteering and networking with all members of the community. I show my passion for community involvement by giving back to the community that gave so much to me growing up. I favor volunteering for organizations and foundations that provide services to youths.

**Describe a recent initiative on which you showed community leadership.**

I have been working tirelessly on several initiatives. I advocate for mental health especially as it relates to students and their safety. I became a mentor with the Travis Manion Foundation so I can mentor students in our community. I proposed this program to the school board already. I have been advocating for housing affordability for over a year. I have spoken to community leaders about the urgent need for workforce housing and the need to pass the 60-Day Ordinance.

**What changes, if any, would you like to make to the CCPS Policies?**

Since my goals are to unite the community and to ensure our students have the education and skills needed to compete for jobs in the global world, I would begin with the actual school board. I would make it a duty for school board members to attend various community events regularly where parents are so they can educate them about the school board and parental rights. We need to promote informed understanding between students, educators, parents, and community leaders.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.***  
***Please email your responses to [sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com](mailto:sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com)***  
***no later than June 3, 2022.***

**What changes, if any, would you like to make to the CCPS Budget?**

An important change is to allocate more money to address the mental health crisis among students and teachers. The education system is predicated upon students learning and teachers teaching. Unfortunately, both efforts are dismal as students are becoming less proficient and teachers are quitting in droves. To address local issues, I would also allocate more money to teacher pay and the development of workforce housing.

**What changes, if any, would you like to make to the CCPS Leadership?**

Based on concerns that have been expressed to me, I feel leadership must show teachers they care by supporting them and providing the resources they need to teach students at all socioeconomic levels. Teachers and students who live in impoverished communities are not receiving the same quality resources as those in wealthier communities. The leadership must be bold enough to address inequalities in our education system. ALL students deserve to have the same quality education!

**What actions, if any, should the School District take to address the need for affordable housing?**

It is incumbent upon the District leadership to become actively involved in the housing affordability crisis by focusing on teacher retention, including adding workforce housing to the list of legislative priorities. Another innovative solution would be for the district to work with other organizations in the community to build workforce housing on or near the school campuses. If school districts, investment bankers, and local governments in Miami and other parts of this country can collaborate to build workforce housing for their teachers by using school bonds, then the District should seriously consider this!

**Please comment on the recent School Board votes to approve textbooks.**

The district voted on books that were passed down from the state level. These books were approved by the state and local boards must adopt books on the list. As such, the books were adopted by our district within the bounds of the normal procedures.

**What are your views about the parental rights and charter school movements as they relate to the School District? How would they influence your actions and decisions as a School Board member?**

ALL parents should be heard when they have concerns about their children's education. However, I do not feel they or politicians should dictate what and how trained education professionals should teach students, especially when it is clear they are pushing their own political agenda. I am in support of charter schools, especially when their priority is to focus on working with other schools to ensure all students receive the best education. It does concern me that there is contention between charter and public schools. Both entities must put their issues aside and do what is best for students. My priority has been and will always be the students. Therefore I am working on uniting our community so we can work collaboratively to educate and support our students and teachers.

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