

Transcript of the file Collier County School Board Candidate Town Hall Hosted by Christian Conservative Coalition May 21, 2022
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Speakers:

Randy Harris

Pastor Greg Ball

District 1 Candidates:

Kimberly Ann Boobyer

Jerry Rutherford

Jory Westberry

District 3 Candidates:

Jana Greer

Kelly Lichter

Jen Mitchell

District 5 Candidates:

Timothy Moshier

Roy Terry

Ana Turino

Moderator: Chad Taylor

Watch the recording from Facebook Live, downloaded 5/28/22:

<https://tinyurl.com/mr49t7cp>

[session begins 00:06:10]

Chad Taylor: Well, thank you so much, Randy. First, I want to thank all of you for showing up today. Having all of your participation in this process is crucial to making it the best possible process we can make it and electing the right school board members for our forum. I want to thank Randy Harris. I want to thank Pastor Greg Ball, the CC Coalition Church, for allowing us to host this **[inaudible 00:06:36]** here today. Finally, I'd like to thank our candidates, the true spirit of the elected leaders who serve. And that's no easy task, especially in today's political climate. I just want to thank you all for having the courage to come forward, step forward, and put your name in the hat to help make improvements to our school system and our school board. Thank you.

Our children are the future leaders of our community and our nation. All of the education led by leaders with unshakable principles is the key to shaping the leaders who are going to uphold the constitutional freedoms of tomorrow. I'm very excited to do this with you today. Today, we aim to better understand the principles of our school board members here at the **[inaudible 00:07:31]**.

So, the format of today, to start, each candidate will have 30 seconds to introduce themselves and then when you hear the alarm, your time is up and we're going to move on to the next candidate. Chantal down here is our timekeeper today. Thank you so much, Chantal, for being our timekeeper. When the introductions are finished, we're going to jump right into the questions. You're going to see the questions right up here on the screen up here, and also, you'll see them on the screen back there for the

candidates. I'll be saying them verbally as well. If you need me to repeat a question, just let me know, and I can repeat the question for you.

Each candidate is to have one minute to answer the question. At 45 seconds into your question, Chantal is going to put up a little time sign here. You're going to see this time. That'll let you know you have 15 seconds left to answer your question and wrap up. When you hear the alarm, your time is up. I'll let you know your time is up. You'll know when your time begins, because I'm going to say, "Your time starts now."

To keep everyone on their toes, we've done something a little different here. What we have is each candidate's name entered in this little fish bowl here. I'm going to draw a name out of the bowl to determine the order that each candidate is going to answer. When each candidate has answered the entire question, we're going to restart and put all the names back in, and we'll start over again. It's going to be completely randomized order. You're going to answer the same question. Once we go through that question, we'll put all the names back in once you answer. Does anybody have any questions about the format **[inaudible 00:09:15]**?

Okay, so just to quickly go over what we're going to do, for each question, we're going to list the question up on the board. I'll read the question. Then I'm going to draw a name randomly out of this fishbowl. When I draw the name out, that will be the first person to answer that question. After you finish answering that question, I'm going to draw another name, and we're going to go through all the names until we're done with all the names and everyone has answered the same question. Then we'll put all the names back in and start over again. Okay?

All right, so let's begin. First, we'll start with the introductions. I'd like to start at the end of the table with Tim Moshier. We're going to work our way down. Each one of you is going to have **30 seconds to introduce yourselves**. Tim, you got your microphone. Pass the microphone on down.

Tim Moshier: All right. It seems to be working.

[00:10:11]

Chad Taylor: Your time starts now.

Tim Moshier: My name's Tim Moshier. I'm running for School Board District 5. I started going to school board meetings last spring. I didn't like what was going on. I didn't like the fact that the current school board **[inaudible 00:10:24]** mask our children. Our children are our responsibility and our **[inaudible 00:10:27]** from God. I'd like to get back to a basic education with them, and that's why I'm running for the school board. I think I can do a lot better. I spent 30 years in the trucking business and delivered everything everyone has had, and now it's time for me to deliver quality education to our children.

[00:10:46]

Chad Taylor: Thank you.

Ana Turino: My name is Ana Turino. I'm running for District 5 as well. I'm a mother of six - two combat veterans, one daughter in UN on a full scholarship, and three still in our Collier County school district. I've been in education at different capacities for the last 15 years, and I've seen the spiraling down of our education. I'm an advocate for teacher retention and training, school choice, and parental rights. I

will ensure students are educated, not indoctrinated, with these rogue ideologies. Thank you and vote for me.

[00:11:29]

Roy Terry: I'm Roy Terry running for school board in District 5. I've been in Collier County for 44 years, been in the school system all that time. I've been a teacher, a coach, an athletic director, a district coordinator, an assistant principal, a principal, and I'm presently on the school board. I am your voice of experience on the Collier County School Board, and I wish to represent the citizens of Collier County. Thank you.

[00:12:04]

Jana Greer: Hi, my name's Jana Greer, and I'm running for District 3 Collier County School Board. I'm an **American First constitutional** conservative. I'm a wife and a mother of six children. I have five within the school district. My youngest is three, so he's almost in preschool. I'm running for your school board District 3 seat, because we need change. We have fallen far away from our American values within our classrooms. I believe that I'm the best choice for this seat because I know and understand what it takes to raise children in this time. Thank you for coming today, and I appreciate you taking your time.

[00:12:44]

Jen Mitchell: Good morning. My name is Jen Mitchell. I'm currently the chair of the Collier County School Board. I'm a local realtor and a mother of four children who **[attended our traditional]** public schools. I'm a graduate of **Perdue** University and have lived in Naples for 25 years. You're going to hear a lot of conflicting information today, so I would just respectfully request that you seek the truth regarding the role of a school board member and how state teaching standards, state statute, and constitutional guarantees factor into that role.

The best way to know what's happening with our schools is to be in them, and so I would encourage you to consider the many ways you can get involved whether through mentoring in the Champions for Learning, volunteering for Fellowship of Christian Athletes, our Good News Gospel Clubs, and so on. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised by the many ways that our schools are working to serve our 48,000 students. Again, I am Jen Mitchell, and I thank you.

[00:13:35]

Kelly Lichter: Good morning. I'm Kelly Lichter, District 3. I am a wife, a mom of two school-age children. My husband and I embarked on a journey in 2011 to start - and establish - Mason Classical Academy, which is now the number one public school in Collier County and top 1% in the state of Florida, which we're very proud of. I also served on the Collier School Board from 2014 to 2018. I did not run for re-election, but after watching what has gone on and what the current school board and school district have been doing, it's time to get back in the race and make some major changes. Thank you.

[00:14:18]

Jory Westberry: My name is Jory Westberry. I ran to apply my experience and love of education and effective board member and to continue the hard work to make our school district even stronger. We are a family of educators with deep roots in Collier County, including my grandson who's been in CCPS

for seven years. I want to support all of our aspiring students, talented teachers, and staff. CCPS has made lots of changes over the last three and a half years, and this will continue in the future. Do I think we can continue to improve? Of course. There's always change, and by working together, we'll make even better strides. Thank you.

[00:15:09]

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: My name is Kimberly Boobyer. I'm running in District 1. I'm a proud American, conservative Christian mama bear. I am protective, courageous, and competent. I'm running for school board because I am called to fight, not against flesh and blood, but against the spirit forces of wickedness. I will fight against the pervasive evil of indifference that ignores 38% of students that are failing English Language Arts and Math. I will pledge to restore academic excellence and traditional values. Thank you.

[00:15:45]

Jerry Rutherford: Hello, I'm Jerry Rutherford, running for school board in District 1. I believe there are five things needed to provide a good education, develop good citizens and great leaders. Number one is discipline. Number two, textbooks that are free from bias censorship and **[inaudible 00:16:00]** history. Number three, morals and virtues. Number four, a good understanding of our founding documents and our form of government. And number five, having respect for yourself, others, property, and thought. Thank you.

[00:16:18]

Chad Taylor: Thank you so much for the great introductions. I'll mix up the names a little bit here. I'm going to draw my first name, then I'll say the question, and we're going to put the question up on the board. Kim Boobyer, you'll be our first candidate with a question. Okay, can you put the first question up? **Question number one, should biological males be allowed to compete in female sports?**

Kimberly Boobyer: No. Biological males should compete in male sports, and females should compete in female sports. That would be unfair to both of the sexes to have that happen. There are only two sexes or genders, and that is male and female, and I will always stand firmly on that. Thank you.

[00:17:17]

Chad Taylor: Kelly Lichter, same question.

Kelly Lichter: Definitely not, and I'm going to speak to this as a-- I was an athlete growing up and played a lot of sports. At the time, there weren't very many sports for girls. I have a twin brother and a brother a year older, so I played all the sports with them. Over time, it was nice to see the sports programs in our community, and really across the country, expand for girls. A lot of strides have been made for female athletes. While I do think female athletes are great, there is definitely a biological difference between a male and female, and this will never happen in Collier County. Mark my words. Thank you.

[00:18:12]

Chad Taylor: Jerry Rutherford, you're next.

Jerry Rutherford: A male is a male, and a female is a female. Can a leopard change its spots, or can a [inaudible 00:18:24] change the color of its skin? No. And I don't believe anything should be different. A male should be running in the male races, and a female should be running in the female races.

[00:18:43]

Chad Taylor: Ana Turino, you're next.

Ana Turino: I do not agree. If you're a female, you play with your own team, and if you're a male, you play within your own. Now, if you will start saying that you feel left out, then you can have your own group of transgenders that can just play amongst themselves. Thank you.

[00:19:13]

Chad Taylor: Jen Mitchell, you're next.

Jen Mitchell: As Kelly said, it will not happen in Collier County, because it cannot. The governor made it very clear when he signed a law into place that females compete against females and males against males. To Ms. Turino's point, I do think that if someone wanted to create a third class, that would be fair. But males biologically competing in events with females is against the law.

[00:19:52]

Chad Taylor: Jory Westberry, you're next.

Jory Westberry: My answer is no. I think there are very distinct differences between males and females, and this will not happen in Collier County.

[00:20:17]

Chad Taylor: Roy Terry, you're next.

Roy Terry: Years ago, they developed Title IX. It was developed to protect women's sports. I believe in defending the sanctity of women's sports. I think we can look at other alternatives for others to participate in if they so desire. [inaudible 00:20:39].

[00:20:49]

Chad Taylor: Tim Moshier, you're next.

Timothy Moshier: Definitely not. This is part of the reason I'm running for the school board. Because there is a difference between men and women, and men definitely shouldn't be participating in women's sports, and vice versa. So, we need to fix this problem and get back to a better education, because this shouldn't be happening.

[00:21:14]

Chad Taylor: And finally, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: I agree. No. Male athletes should not participate in female sports. I'm thankful that we have a governor that has provided a policy for Florida. Imagine if he didn't. It would be a different position in the end. So, I think that we still need to create policy and guarantee that from those [inaudible

00:21:41 on point two that we continue in that way and allow to have another group as I just said. You should be given the opportunity to create another group. The Special Olympics is another opportunity, for those athletes, are being built, but they need to participate to have their own sports. Thank you.

[00:22:05]

Chad Taylor: The next question. **What is your stance on abortion, and how would it guide your school policies?** Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: My stance on abortion is that I am very Catholic and very pro-life. Now I would always follow state statutes whatever that is, because I am a law-abiding citizen. And as long as it's constitutional, I would have to abide by that. But I would always be looking in the direction of getting abortion to be abolished. I am very heavily involved in the pro-life movement and backing that completely. So, of course, that is my position that I would be always praying over that and trying to work in that direction. Thank you.

[00:23:02]

Chad Taylor: Jana Greer, you're next.

Jana Greer: My stance on abortion is that it should not be allowed. It is a human life at conception. How will it guide school policies? Currently, in the education material, there is an option in that that actually states that you should have an abortion **[inaudible 00:23:20]economic status**. I don't believe that should be in there. The state actually tells us that we should be teaching abstinence. I think that adding the extra stuff on top is unnecessary, and I think it should be removed. Thank you.

[00:23:38]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: This is a topic that is very personal for me, because I am here today because my mom deferred this decision, to keep me when she was 18 years old. I think it's important to distinguish between **[inaudible 00:23:53]** actions and educating actions. I brought some human birth and reproductive curriculum today for you to see for yourself what exactly we are teaching our teens, keeping in mind that these are available for you to view on our website all year long as well as parents having the right to opt out. I will always support that. I do want to correct the record regarding the abortion issue in our text.

Our teachers create curriculum maps. They create their own PowerPoints. There is a portion of the text that our children don't see that mentions the abortion reasons for and against with regard to Roe v. Wade. That is not part of the curriculum map and that is not part of the PowerPoint that our students see. So, I agree that there are conversations that are best left for parents. That's my personal opinion on that.

[00:24:49]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: This is a very personal decision for a woman. I am not pro-abortion; I'm not anti-abortion. I think that there are some cases that may be required. In case of rape or incest, I think those

are very personal decisions for a woman to make. As far as school policies, I think that we don't have a policy to teach anything like abortion [inaudible 00:25:30].

[00:25:34]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: I believe that you should not have an abortion. I think the school system has failed us. I think you should wait until marriage or at least a formal relationship and take responsibility for the way you act. It is a life. It is a beginning. That is the reason most of you parents - you people here today - you do have children, and you care about our future. So, I think at this point and stage, if you see them having sex, lead them in appropriate time. When children are having sex, even when two people are having sex, it's just completely messing up a society, bringing down the morals. If you want to have a child, have sex, there are consequences and you should be able to enjoy that child for the rest of your life and, I think, not to abort it. It's their life, not yours.

[00:26:29]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: I am pro-life to that point that I will not even take out puppies from dogs. I strongly feel that we should have abstinence in sex education, and it should be done after school with the parents, because this is a very intimate subject that parents should be involved. These are children. They should not be thinking about sex at this age. They should enjoy their youth and growth, and then think about having children or even being involved with sexual relations. Thank you.

[00:27:10]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: I believe that if a girl gets pregnant in school, the school should immediately inform the parents. I don't think there should be any policy at all in the school regarding abortion, period.

[00:27:31]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: My stance on abortion is that I am pro-life. In terms of how will it guide school policies, I would ensure that we are not promoting any type of abortion or having planned parenthood presence in the schools. So, that's something, as a schoolboard member, I would look at in terms of the policies. Thank you.

[00:27:58]

Chad Taylor: And finally, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: I'm against abortion. I think that should be left up to the state to decide that people live with their mistakes. As far as the education curriculum, we have in our health course, in high school, we have a section on sex education. In that section, we have about five lessons. Two weeks prior to that section, a letter is sent home to all parents as to whether they want to opt out of the sex ed course. So, they have two weeks to make that decision. The course lasts about a week and a half. It's a state curriculum,

a health curriculum. It's only taught in high school. The only eighth graders that get it are those that want to get an extra credit ahead of time before they get to high school so they can take band or other electives. They would take both courses in their eighth-grade year. Thank you.

[00:29:01]

Chad Taylor: All right, the next question. **How should American exceptionalism and Marxism be taught in schools?** First up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: The fact is the books that we just most recently adopted, as a matter of fact, **[inaudible 00:29:23]** is that they did focus on American exceptionalism, patriotism. They included text on the Declaration of Independence, Patrick Henry's speech, a speech by Ronald Reagan, a lot of great patriotic text. So, there are lots of opportunities to learn about American exceptionalism.

I think the fact about socialism, Marxism, fascism, those things should all absolutely be taught. Because how else will our students appreciate this experiment if they don't know that there are people around the world being kept down by Marxism, socialism, and fascism. They need to understand what's at stake by not upholding American exceptionalism. Thank you.

[00:30:05]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: I think American exceptionalism should be taught from Kindergarten. Start introducing our children into the Constitution and how this country was founded, and teach them to be pro-American and very proud of their country and understand the struggles that everyone had to endure to make this great country and continue to learn more. With regards to Marxism and Communism and all those ideologies, I think they should be taught at the high school level in depth and show how all of these other countries that are following that doctrine are not succeeding, and people, all of their constitutional rights that we have are being infringed.

[00:30:59]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: I definitely think it should be taught. American exceptionalism is right. Everyone from this planet wants to come to this country to live the American dream. Marxism is slowly destroying them. I do not think that the school system is doing their job teaching it, because there seems to be so many people that are pushing for that in this school system and everything else. So, I think we need to push the bad side of that and why it's not working. And everyone right now, in government, including the current administration, is pushing for Marxism and taking everything down and making that responsible for us, for Americans, and for people who want to come to this country and live the American dream. I think that's why we should be teaching the pros and cons of each one. Thank you.

[00:31:49]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: Alexis de Tocqueville said America is great for politics in schools. If America fails to be good, it will fail to be great. He wrote **[inaudible 00:32:12]** for the American Sentinel. I don't have time

to go through it right now. Marxism should be taught as far as the failures are concerned, the realization that there's not a few of us, but everything part of it.

[00:32:30]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: I have to agree with most of my fellow candidates. American exceptionalism, we are exceptional. And we should promote that and tell people from the rooftops. Marxism and the other ideologies should be taught at a grade level that's appropriate for them. And I believe it would probably be high school.

[00:33:10]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: I believe that civics should be taught, and luckily, we have a Governor that is demanding that it be taught. We have standards. So, we all know that civil government, including the primary functions of all branches and levels of government from local and state up to the federal will now be taught. And the arguments and support about being a republican form of government **[inaudible 00:33:40]** with the Federalist Papers. Those are all important.

I think that Marxism should be taught to the same point of its evils and also, the history of the Holocaust. Those are included in the standards as well. The favorite that I have is that plain education and etiquette is going to be taught. It will encourage patriotism and understanding of the sacrifices the veterans have made to protect our country and the democratic values that we uphold in this republic. Thank you so much.

[00:34:11]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: This is a great question for me, because as I mentioned, we established Mason Classical Academy. And every morning, our children say the Pledge of Allegiance. They recite the Preamble to the Constitution. And we have an education of curriculum where history is taught starting in kindergarten. I know we've heard people mentioning that it should be. We are doing it, and I'll tell you, it's working.

And when it comes to Marxism being taught in schools, yes, I absolutely believe we need to show the other side. But show it in the truth, in the real light - not make it sound like it's some great thing. That's unfortunately what's happening generation after generation; it's being promoted in the schools. I've been saying all along, we need to go back to teaching history beginning in kindergarten, because it was mentioned that Governor DeSantis believes in the civics education. The Collier County pass rate for Governor DeSantis's civics literacy test was 36%. At Mason, it was 91%. Thank you.

[00:35:20]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: First of all, I believe in American exceptionalism. I believe it is being taught from all the teachers that I know, that I've worked with in the school system. But I also believe that we should teach Marxism and all the other forms of government so the students understand the really great

opportunities they have in this country. My father fought in World War II in Africa. During World War II, he was in the Air Force. He was there in the Korean War and also in the Vietnam War before he retired. I think with his sacrifices, during the time he did away from this area and everything else, it should be taught in our schools. These are exceptional days that we live in now, and I think we need to promote those to our students.

[00:36:18]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: If we don't learn from history, we're bound to repeat it. America was created because we left tyranny. So, we need to teach our kids on these foundations when moving forward. We need to teach them the difference between what we have here and what we left, what other options are out there. We need to not leave our kids in a silo that thinks that socialism or Marxism is the way to go. This country would not exist with those ideas. We have the best country and we are its greatest experiment. So, we need to bring that in, and I'm thankful our governor has brought policy that says civics education needs to be number one. But we need to go further and take it beyond just the high school level and continue from K all the way to the top so that our children know what this country really stands for.

[00:37:18]

Chad Taylor: Thank you. The next question. **How have you demonstrated that you're the best candidate to be a school board member?** First up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: It's a great question. I do think my track record speaks for itself in terms of the education that we're providing at Mason eight years in. And we are the top performing school. I know what works.

Also, I believe I have the courage to stand up to the current regime. There are things going on in the current school system in districts. I would have to spend, probably, hours explaining all of this at another forum. But I feel like I have the courage and the knowledge to address these issues and concerns.

And I also have shown the commitment. I volunteered my time for the last 12 years. I don't make any money doing this. I do it because I believe in our country, and I do it for our children. And I think my track record definitely speaks for itself. Thank you.

[00:38:31]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: I think that I have demonstrated that I'm a good candidate because of my track record also. We have created a lot of different career paths for students. We've created college readiness tracts for students, and we've done a lot of great things. There are people that are very grateful for what we've done, and they understand. But we're still moving forward, and I think that we have done a great job. Thanks.

[00:39:23]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: I have demonstrated that I'm the best candidate for Collier County School Board District 3 by getting out in the community, hearing from parents, hearing from teachers, listening about what's

going on. I've been to some of the school board meetings, paying attention to the workshops, and taking in all the information that is currently existing to prepare myself to be the best school board member pick I can possibly be.

It takes work; it takes work as a team together. And I believe that I can work with other board members to bring about the best policies for our students, to do better for our future. Thank you.

[audio/video glitch 00:40:06]

Roy Terry: Also, in the school system we've been an A school district now for about five straight years. We've out-performed the state in all 21 categories as a school system, there are no D or F schools, and our graduation rates continue to climb every year. I would also say that when you can say you're the number one school in the district, that's great. I think **[inaudible 00:40:29]** grade school is doing well. But my choice of number one in the district would be Pinecrest, which went from a D to an A over the last year, which is a tremendous accomplishment, by that faculty and staff **at Pinecrest**.

[00:40:47]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: I've demonstrated that I am the best candidate for school board, because I set aside all of my own personal issues, and I stepped up to the plate when there was a time of great need so that I could serve my community. When we have a school board that has ignored the 38% of students that are failing English, language arts, and math, that shows that we need new leadership in government. And that's what I'm here to do.

I have a very long history of serving my community, serving with children especially by teaching Vacation Bible School, Sunday school. I teach golf with the First Tee Program of Collier County, and we teach virtues alongside golf. And I also volunteer as a unified partner with the Special Olympics. I have a track record of serving my community, and I care.

[00:41:43]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: I demonstrated it in the last 14 months. I started going to the school board meetings and looking at what they're doing and listening to what the school board is saying. It started out with masking our children and the school board telling the parents what they can and can't do. They're your children, they're your responsibility, they're your gift from God. And I've talked to numerous people - business people, former students, teachers - and found out a lot of problems that are in the school system and corrected it.

As soon as I started this, I found out about Mason Academy, I talked to them, and **[inaudible 00:42:24]** of their schools. I like what they're doing. They're the top-rated school in the county and one of the top in the state. I want to know why we're not using those practices here. So, I would like to enable some of those. So, I've done my homework, I've talked to people, and I've looked at the budget. I want to fix the problems and get our kids a better education.

[00:42:45]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: I think it's important to have this matter to clear the record about the 38%. 38% of our students failing math and reading is not a true statement. 38% of our students are not at grade level. That's fair enough. To say they're illiterate is frankly an insult to them and to the teachers and their families who are working to make that lift.

I think it's important also that they can have a board member that's going to communicate and make themselves available to the community, teachers, parents. You get my cell phone number. If you have a problem, you can bring that problem to me. You get my undivided attention; you get my cell phone number. I'm willing to work hard to solve whatever problem that you bring forward.

We have a 92.7% graduation rate. That's a record for Collier County. We have a [inaudible 00:43:35] in every single tested area. And we have an A rating, again, this year. I think, also, you need a board member that can build consensus, meaning that they have to be able to communicate [inaudible 00:43:44] with one another. We may not always agree; we don't always get along. But you need to be respectful to one another. And that's what this board has done. I think, too, honestly, we're a board that upholds the Constitution and follows the law. Thank you.

[00:44:05]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: The way I have demonstrated that I am a good candidate, is one thing, 38% of under grade-level students that we have, I am proud to say that I have a track record of 95% increase of the students I've worked with on reaching a grade level of passing. I am proud to say that this year, I have seven students I have brought up to grade level, and have not been retained.

Also, I work with foster children, and the way I've demonstrated that I will stand my ground is the fact that when you're a ward of the state, you're not allowed to have religion or faith. Therefore, I stood my ground, and when my student asked me to pray, I said, "By all means. If I'm going to get fired, then so be it." But God is first. Thank you.

[00:45:01]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: How do I demonstrate my experience? Thirty-five years, I've attended school board meetings, speaking over 300 times about the problems within the schools that were being ignored and they didn't know how to vote. I wanted to give them insights about their vote so we could change some of the bad things that were going on in the schools and encourage who they voted for. I believe I have the experience, and I will continue to work as long as I live in order to put our students back in [inaudible 00:45:36] we had in the past. That is our American culture and our American families. Thank you.

[00:45:49]

Chad Taylor: Next question. **Are you willing to stand for what you believe is right even when the rules say otherwise? And how have you demonstrated that?** First up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: Yes, I will stand up for what I believe in. And I have been. I do go to pro-choice clinics, and I pray with my women's group. Like I said before, the students that I work with as wards of the state, they are not supposed to pray or have any religious beliefs. But I believe that this is incorrect; and therefore, I tell my students if you want to pray, I will pray with you. And then I will take it up with the administration. There's no reason why we have to sway children away from God and make them lose hope. Thank you.

[00:46:39]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: There are many times as a school board member that I would see things come down on the desk at our board meetings where the district was planning on doing one thing or another. And at that point in time, you need to be able to go to the superintendent, you need to be able to sit down and say, "Listen, I cannot support this activity, and I wish that you would do away with it or change so that it would be acceptable to me." So, I've had the ability to build my relationship with the superintendent, and there have times that I've been able to stand up and say, "This is not going to be good for the kids. It's not going to be good for the community." My whole thought is if it's not good for our students, then we shouldn't be doing it.

[00:47:39]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: I will always take a stand for what is constitutional, what is state law unless these things are against God's law. I will always stand for God's law first and my own conscience. And we have to [inaudible 00:47:58] because I'm not going to be swayed one way or another from what is right. [inaudible 00:48:04].

[00:48:12]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: Yes, I will stand up for what I believe in just [00:48:18] books on the Constitution. We need to do what is right even when somebody else is trying to push something else in the other direction. In order to stand, you have to be rooted in your faith and your God views, and I am. I'm a daughter of pastor who pastored for 41 years. Faith in God is a real part of me. And so, I will stand up for what is right. Thank you.

[00:48:42]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: I live in a little town called Everglade City. And right after Irma came through, we had about seven to eight feet of water in town. About a year afterwards, we had FEMA come into town and tell us, "Unless these people take down their little tiki huts in an RV park, we're canceling the flood insurance on the entire town."

I sat on the board for that, and I said, "Listen, you can't cancel the flood insurance for the entire town because of a few tiki huts." Then the pandemic came with Covid. So, we had to put that on hold for a year. And they kept hounding us and hounding us because we couldn't do any meetings.

And that's kind of how I see the type of lime light that the government gets. They keep saying, "Hey, if you want our money, we're going to do this." And the flood insurance in our little town, if they would have canceled it, everyone would have been defaulted on their mortgage in order to **[inaudible 00:49:38]** over. It's just the government overreaching. I stood up to our government in Everglade city just I like I'm going to stand up for the school system. I'm going to get the money out of our system and say, "Hey, take your and shove it. It's only a small percent of our budget. We don't need it." And we have to rule our children out of the government taking care of us.

[00:50:00]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: People who know me know that I will stand up for what is right, and I stand for the truth. I want to give you an example of when I was on the school board. The teacher unions were using the teacher mailboxes to put political materials about other school board candidates in there. And I raised the issue because those teacher mailboxes are, frankly, paid for by us, the taxpayers. If the union wants to send out those communications to the teacher members-- it should be everybody who's a member or not-- they should spend their money on postage and mail it out themselves instead of using the taxpayer mailboxes.

When I raised this issue, District Council Jon Fishbane, gave his legal analysis and allowed this to happen. But this is just one example of several I could give where I stood up for what is right and on behalf of the taxpayers. Because this shouldn't be happening. Thank you.

[00:51:09]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: Yes, I will always stand by the Constitution and just laws according to the God's Word. I worked on **[inaudible 00:51:21]** were unconstitutional. They should have never been enforced, and they were. The parents should always have a say so, so I'm very much standing behind parental rights. And Governor DeSantis has implemented those, so both will definitely be followed. Nothing unconstitutional will I ever vote for.

I've had to stand up numerous times for my daughter to get what was best for her in her education. And I will continue to do so for all students. One example was when my daughter couldn't **[inaudible 00:51:56]** music therapy when she was in school. That was up in Michigan. I'm not accusing Collier County of this. But my daughter needed music therapy. It would have helped her greatly. It would have facilitated her, and they refused to give it. So, it was a really hard battle. But eventually, I was able to get music therapy into their classroom for the entire class. It was great. Thank you.

[00:52:23]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: I think I have proven that I'm willing to take a stand on things over the course of my 25 to 30 years in the district as a teacher, as an administrator, and now as a school board member. If I think that something is wrong with students, I will speak up, and I have no qualms about doing it.

[00:52:56]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: An example of this would be just last year. We began working on policy to get sexually explicit materials out of the media centers unless we had written express permission from the parent. For example, books by [inaudible 00:53:18], which is actually books that are required by the college board admissions to read for college credit. Some of those do have very explicit scenes, and so, I'm simply asking that parents write a permission slip giving their permission for the student to opt into that. I'm happy to say that that's happening. At our meeting on Monday, they are rolling out that new policy. So, that's one example.

Another example is I continue to hear the issue with the masks. There was an emergency order 07 from the Department of Education. The Department of Education, by the way, is government appointed, and they govern schools. And it stated that we were subject to the advice and orders of our local and state health department. So, again, I uphold the Constitution, and I follow the law. Thank you.

[00:54:08]

Chad Taylor: Next question. In the next few years, our school district will be looking for a new superintendent. What qualities are most important to you in the selection process? Roy Terry, you're up.

Roy Terry: First of all, the things that are most important to me is that the person is a morally sound person. I would be very interested in making sure that they exhibit those strengths. I also want a person that's going to be good at working with the community. This school system has survived maybe because we have about 60 outside agencies that work together for the future of Collier which enables to develop plans to help our schools.

The agencies are in both Immokalee and Naples. They provide a lot of support for our students. So, in my mind, working with the community and then working with our teachers and students to make sure that the education continues on a positive rise. We've increased our overall graduation rate from 72.5% to 92.7% over the last few years. We also have increased our achievement deficit between black and Hispanic students. The black went from 64% to 93%.

Chad Taylor: We're at time.

Roy Terry: Thank you.

[00:55:42]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: I believe a good superintendent needs to be, first of all, honest. He needs to have integrity. He needs to be [inaudible 00:55:58] and have a good backbone. I would like to have a background check on the person before we make any kind of decisions. I must know that that person

will do the right thing - not for themselves but for the schools specifically. And so, I look forward to having the time to [inaudible 00:56:18] someone who will be the best superintendent we could hope to have. I think there are people out there that will fit the bill.

[00:56:33]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: I think a superintendent has to have integrity, honesty, good **transparency**, and has an educational background. He's a networker, a community leader, and student oriented. I just want to say something about the 38% that Kimberly mentioned that were not at grade level. We have 91 different dialects in our school district. And some of these students come into school without absolutely no English whatsoever. And for us to have only 38% is a miracle, and it's a testament to what our teachers are doing.

[00:57:32]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: I would like a superintendent that believes in American exceptionalism, respects our Constitution, and is brought up in a faith home and respects God and wants to bring back prayer into our schools. I also think, with regards to a background check - not only a background check, because a lot of teachers have gone through background checks, and down the line, we find a lot of issues. So, therefore, there should be further screening, and we should have them be referred by other people that can get proof that they are good members of society. Lastly, I would also like to see a bilingual one so that they can speak to our Hispanic students and be able to see what is going on and how we need help for all students across the board. Thank you.

[00:58:37]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: I would like to have someone who will lead with morals and values, who has honesty and integrity and experience, someone who believes in this country and American exceptionalism, someone who will help build the culture where parents are really heard and issues are not shoved under the rug, to help all students, to be an advocate for all students - not only for students but also the parents - to be an advocate for the teachers. We need to change our culture within our school system.

We need a chance to have someone who will lead and build that culture. And without doing some background checks and research and really getting into the nitty gritty, almost like we've got today, to know who they really are, we're going to have a hard time really seeing what that superintendent stands for. So, I really think we need to dig deeper when we do our interviews and that interview process to find out what they really stand for. Thank you.

[00:59:36]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: This question is important to me because I always say, "Who you hire matters." Here's what we need that we don't have. And I hear the terms honesty and integrity by the other candidates.

Those are first and foremost that we must have, going forward. Also, someone who's a parent, who actually has had children. Someone who is fiscally responsible, who cares more about acknowledging the deficiencies in our student achievement - because that's a priority - rather than self-promotion.

Spending a lot of taxpayer money on trying to get the superintendent-of-the-year award in Florida is a waste of the taxpayer dollars. It is also a waste of time and resources when the energy should be going towards raising student achievement.

And finally, I'll say this. Every campaign year - the school board - this school board would extend the superintendent's contract by four years. That is unacceptable. We'll see what happens this summer. Thank you.

[01:00:46]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: I would like to see the next superintendent be more like us, a faith-based person, has moral values, loves his country, with prayer and religion back in the school system. He also has some financial responsibility. Every year, every government official looks to spend more and more of your tax dollars. I'd like to see one of them actually cut the budget a little bit and get us a little bit more money.

I've been in business for over 30 years - a trucking business - and every year, we have to tighten our reigns a little bit because the price of fuel has gone up. I needed to fill up a truck for a customer, and it cost me \$1,200. A year ago, it cost me probably a little over \$400. Just right now, it seems like every government agency is looking to spend more money. I'd like to see one be able to cut the budget down and put more money back in our pockets. 15% of all of our property tax goes towards **[inaudible 01:01:46]**. I'd like them to be responsible for and start moving the budget. That's something I've never even seen before, and you can't read it. I've got to sit down with someone and figure out exactly where and what--

Chad Taylor: Time.

[01:02:06]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: I think, first and foremost, it's important for the community to have input as to what they're looking for in the next superintendent, not just whoever is sitting on the board. I think it's going to be important that we see the selection committee to help interview those people, and it's important that they help decide the priorities. I'd like to see a priority with regard to being focused on academic achievement, community involvement, and communication with the public.

I think it's important to note that there's a lot of misinformation about our current superintendent out there, and I think it's really important. Actually, how many of you can tell me who Manny Diaz is? He is a Republican legislator responsible for the most education policy in the state of Florida, currently. He was just named, by the governor, as our Commissioner of Education. He chose our superintendent to introduce him at his ceremony at the last Board of Education meeting. So, I think to allay your fears, we have an excellent superintendent, and a year for now, we'll be looking for a new one. And I would like for you to participate.

Chad Taylor: Time.

[01:03:22]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: I would want a superintendent that has the highest standards of practice. I would be looking for a superintendent that is focused on getting parental involvement, more of that, all the time. Because that does produce successful students. I would be looking for a superintendent that has an exemplary track record of producing students that are above grade level, not just hovering at grade level and the 38% of our students that are getting ones and twos, which is below grade level. So, if you don't think that's failing, I do.

Lely High, for example, has nearly 60% of students failing English and language arts in grades three through ten. So, I want a superintendent that's going to be laser focused on that school and the others that are similar that are failing those students. And they should be involved with the community as well in that process. Thank you.

[01:04:29]

Chad Taylor: Okay. The next question. **What are your views on parental rights versus state responsibility?** First up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: First of all, my views are that parents are very important in schools. There are many ways parents can get involved. One is on the SAC committee in your school. If you're a parent, you can join the SAC committee. In the SAC committee, there are a lot of the policies and things that that school has been operating on. There are also other ways that you can get involved **[inaudible 01:05:04]** committee and other types of committees such as providing lunch to our students.

I also believe in, clearly, cutting the budget. I think we need to think, "We're need to cut the budget. What do you cut?" Instead of just saying you're cutting the budget, tell us what you're going to cut out - not just cut this and cut that. Are you going to cut sports? Are you going to cut music? Are you going to cut the ROTC? What are you going to cut? Thank you.

[01:05:37]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: I'm a huge advocate of a parent's ability to make decisions on what's best for their children, first and foremost. One of the candidates continues to talk about this executive order regarding the masks. And this is simply not true. I'm going to bring up Mason Classical School because this is where I have a track record and experience. I serve on the board there.

We were in the same boat as the Collier School Board when schools re-opened. And we had the same executive order to look at. But our board said this should be a parent's choice whether or not their child has a mask on their face all day, which I find completely unacceptable and disturbing. On our board, we had a choice. And we were one of the few schools that didn't. And frankly, continuing to say that they were following orders is simply not true. So, I think that needed to be said. But parents should have a say over their children. Thank you.

[01:06:47]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: We have eight unalienable rights - rights from God. One of those rights is the right of failure. You can't overcome someone's failures **[inaudible 01:07:07]**. There's a state law that says we're going to overcome that right. We know that's wrong because through failures you learn a new experience, and you learn to overcome these failures. But the other rights are right of choice, individual rights. None of these rights can be overcome by any part of the government at all, period.

[01:07:38]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: My views on parental rights is the parent has the rights over their children and how they are raised and how they are given their moral and ethical values. Teachers are there to teach education - reading, writing, and arithmetic. It also focuses on the virtues that that the parents are teaching at home, but first and foremost, it's the parent's responsibility.

As for the budget cuts, I do want to say that we need to look at the salaries that the district employees have right now. Quite a few of them have had a considerable raise. And also, we need to look at the money that's not being spent. What's going on there? For example, there are no substitute teachers in the schools right now. Therefore, classes are being divided and given to other teachers, which is causing more work and more stress on them. So, those are the budget cuts I want to investigate into. Thank you.

[01:08:39]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: Parental rights are really important. First of all, all rights come from God, our Creator. And they cannot be taken away from us. Now, we can give them up to government, but everything that's in the Constitution is clearly laid out. In fact, the 10th Amendment says that the power resides with the people unless it is specifically outlined in the Constitution.

So, parents' rights is their right and their responsibility to oversee the education of their children. And we have legislation on that now, that the institutions may not infringe upon those rights, and that they are in charge of directing upbringing, education, healthcare, and mental health of their minor child. And I stand by that completely.

[01:09:34]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: Parental rights are extremely important to me. As a parent and a grandmother, I feel very strongly about what we say and what we expect from our children. The state is responsible for setting learning goals. And we, as parents, work toward those learning goals. Or if we do not choose to follow those state guidelines, then we can do something else.

[01:10:17]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: I would like to just point out that because Mason Classical chose not to follow an emergency order with the Department of Education does not mean that it did not apply. Fortunately for them, they were not penalized. **[inaudible 01:10:40]** regarding the rules that our traditional public schools have to follow versus our charter schools. And I wholly support school choice, so that's enough on that. I just think it's important for you to understand there are a very different set of guidelines that apply to charter versus traditional public.

And I think it's important that you know that CCPS actually were the first to allow parents to opt out of any assignment, a book, reproductive health lessons, any of those things. I'm the mother of four children that have gone through our schools, I was one of the moms that went into the school and sat and went through reproductive health curriculum before I decided whether or not my child would partake.

So, it's very important. I will continue to fight to uphold parental rights. And I'm grateful to our governor for making it priority.

[01:11:25]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: Parents have the sole right in the upbringing and the health and welfare of their children. The state should not have control in that area unless there is absolute harm, according to law. Then the state can step in - the state being government. For instance, the school district, right now, has an option on FOCUS [a web-based school software system] for students to put their preferred name or what they want to go by. So, if they want to change it to a boy's name, they can actually put the boy's name in the system. And it is not visible to the parents. It should be in the nickname section.

So, that actually violates parental right by giving them the power from the state (state-given power) to hide it. This should not be happening. They're bringing in our children from LGBTQ, and that should not be going on. That is not being in the sunshine and in conjunction with the parent. That needs to be taken care of. Thank you.

[01:12:27]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: I think parents have the right to expect a good education for their children. Learn the basics and keep the politics out of the schools and everything. It just seems like they're clouding up everything. I have great children. They're on the East Coast unfortunately, and they just don't seem to be learning. **[inaudible 01:12:56]**. And I think the school system should be teaching them and do a much better job for the parents. As for the parents, the parents should be getting a little bit more involved with everything so they can see everything.

As far as the state's responsibilities, it should be taking certain books **[inaudible 01:13:09]**, and they should be taken out of the schools. I don't know why the state can't step up and take those books out of the schools and just get back to the basic education. That's all.

[01:13:24]

Chad Taylor: The next question. Are you in favor of a comprehensive, outside audit of the school system's budget? Why or why not? First up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: Before I answer this question, I am a defender of truth. MCA had to submit a real plan to the district which was approved, which stated we would not be part of this. So, either the school board nominees don't know what's going on or they're very misinformed. I just wanted to say that.

In terms of an outside audit of the school system's budget, I absolutely believe we need to do that and dig in really deep. I'm talking get staff out of the way here - completely removed - and take a deep dive into what's going on. I can tell you that the administrative bloat, the numerous six-figure positions that have been added I mentioned, this one I know from experience. The charter liaison is usually given to someone has no knowledge of charter schools, but yet they're being paid \$120,000 to \$130,000. What job pays that much money to someone who is, like, on-the-job training? It's absurd.

So, yes, I strongly believe in the outside audit. Thank you.

[01:14:46]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: Yes, I'm in favor of an outside audit of our school system budget, but not just a forensic audit. I think we need to do an efficiency audit. We need to look at where we are spending money. When we have a corporation and a business, and we look at how we're spending money and are we efficient in that area. And if you're not, you start back at zero and rebuild and figure out how we can change and be more efficient. We need to be efficient for our spending. We are the fiduciary of the taxpayer dollar. And without that, we are just wasteful in my opinion. So, I think that is needed, completely removed from the internal staff-- in conjunction with the staff but actually removed. Thank you.

[01:15:32]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: I hate to disappoint you, but we have many, many audits going on all year long from outside agencies. They come in and the personnel are not there. They examine everything that is being done. And I don't think we've had any deficiencies or corrections that were issued.

[01:16:11]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: First of all, I'll repeat what Ms. Westberry said. We do an outside audit every year, outside of our district. We just finished a three-year audit, which was done in the last six months by the state. They come and they stay here for six months. They look at everything that we've done, and we've passed that with no findings. I will tell you that we have the third lowest millage rate in the state. We've reduced the millage rate within the last 10 years by about 1%. We'll be debt free by 2026. The new high school is going to be completely paid for, saving you, the taxpayer, \$41 million. We've had a referendum pass with no tax increase. We've funded from one budget to another. The district prepares the budget. Wereview the budget two times and then we have the final vote on the budget.

We just had our first meeting on the budget this week. And we've been **[inaudible 01:17:19]**.

Chad Taylor: Time.

Roy Terry: Thank you very much.

[01:17:28]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: I am in favor of an outside comprehensive audit to be followed. On the inside, we're still subject to influence. History is full of dishonest people. Why would the district object? For honesty's sake, there should be one just to encourage other people on the thoughts that they're doing the right thing. Why would it affect their business?

[01:18:21]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: To the point that was made earlier, the district undergoes an overall an audit annually by outside agencies. **[inaudible 01:18:35]** is one of the firms that we use. The state also comes in. But this board took it a step further. We actually hired a risk assessment. That's one of the high-dollar areas with regard to ARP money, the area IT, and construction of the new high school. So, we are passing the **[inaudible 01:18:52]**. I'm happy to stay on with anyone and show you where, on the website, you have access to our budget information. During my time on the board, we have had no significant findings in any of our audits.

And so, again, facts matter. I just want say to the point about nicknames. If in fact that's happening-- because **[inaudible 01:19:12]** -- my name is Jennifer. I was asked to go by Jen. If it's being used for impermissible reasons, that's actually breaking the law, and we need to know about that. Because we will enforce it when we know about it.

[01:19:31]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: I, too, would like to have an outside auditor. I do understand that the school board, right now, has their own audits. But I would like to see more transparency with taxpayers. I think that we should be able to read the audit and understand it. Now, yes, I understand that there is a video they have online to understand the budget, but if any of you have actually looked at this video, it still doesn't explain. All it explains is the money coming from the government, the state, and what we spend it on.

I would also like to see an audit done at the schools. Because they do give money to each school for them to spend. And we need to know what those principals are spending it on. Also, I tried to look. We need an efficiency audit like my colleague stated here. Because **[inaudible 01:20:26]** at best, I tried to see how much they spent on it, and it was actually tied into our curriculum, and it was honestly a waste of time. It took our kids out of four classes and put into a somewhat study hall. Because most kids said they did nothing but sit there and play on the **[inaudible 01:20:42]**. Thank you.

[01:20:47]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: I am definitely in favor of having comprehensive outside audits. And even though we already have some of those in place, we have with our \$1.3 million budget at CCPS, we still have a deficiency in student academic achievement. And so, however that budget money is being spent, it obviously needs to be rerouted in the direction of getting better student achievement, because we've got to get that focus on that 38% that are not up to grade level in grades three through ten. And I think that it's important to have responsibility with the budget, to make sure that we're spending everything responsibly. And that is one of the best areas to look at.

[01:21:46]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: I'm 100% for it. We need an audit, a forensic audit. We need to see where every dime is being spent. I'm sure every one of you that owns property has gotten a tax bill. They keep trying to talk about, oh, the millage rate hasn't gone up. But every year I get my tax bill, the dollar amount keeps going up. I want to see where the money is going. I want to see why our teachers are being paid 15% below the national average. I want to see why the administrators are being paid 30% above the national average. I just want to see where the money is going. I've spent 30 years in the trucking business. Every year, a couple of times a year, I'd sit down and I want to know where tires were, fuel costs were, why fuel costs went up. There are always questions to be answered.

It seems like what's being said is, "This is normal. There are no problems here, nothing to look at." When they say there's nothing to look at, there's definitely something to look at. We can dig down into it, find out where the money is getting spent, and find out why our teachers are making less money than the national average. That's all I have to say about that. Thank you.

[01:22:50]

Chad Taylor: Next question. **In your own words, what is critical race theory, and does it belong in the school system?** First up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: Critical race theory, in my own words, I believe it is a political agenda. It's about teaching our kids that being white isn't good and that you need to apologize. As I've advocated before, I do believe in teaching history, early American beginning in kindergarten. And I do think this critical race theory, as much as the district has said is not in our schools, I do question why the district purchased a book for administrators called Unconscious Bias in Schools and spent taxpayer money on it.

To me, I have concerns about that. And also, about their new hire, the Director of Equity and Inclusion, a six-figure job. To me, I question isn't that how the CRT starts to infiltrate in our schools? I definitely have serious concerns about that.

[01:24:14]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: In my own words, CRT is a philosophy and it tries to bring the differences between people instead of the similarities. Does it belong in school? No.

[01:24:44]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Janna Greer.

Jana Greer: In my own words, the critical race theory tells me that I am white, and I am oppressor. And then because I am the ultimate race, they are oppressed. And therefore, in our society they will not succeed or have any success as such white person. Does it belong? No. Why do we teach our children anything about a race and color of skin and tell them they are oppressed or an oppressor? If you look at society today, we have definitely amazing black men and women who are make six figures, \$1 billion in basketball, football. They are successful men and women of other races and colors.

For us to teach our children that they are, just because of their race, cannot succeed or that they are oppressed from the ultimate success does not and should not ever belong in this country. Thank you.

[01:25:50]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: I see critical race theory as racial divide. It's actually telling our kids that we are the oppressor and you're bullies and we came here and shut down men. No, that's not what it is. We are all created equal. That's not what critical race theory is. Sorry, I need to pull back. What I'm trying to say is we should be teaching our kids that we're all the same, we can all succeed. And just because that happened in the past, that was just our way of growing. This happens when we move forward and make the world a better place.

[01:26:34]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: The critical race theory, in my words, is nothing more than divisiveness, and it is created to bring division between races and to focus on your skin color rather than the content of your character. It undermines everything that Dr. Martin Luther King fought for. We are all Americans. This does not belong in our school system. What belongs in our school system is patriotism and American Exceptionalism. And we need to bring unity for the fact that we are all Americans. We have a lot of reasons to unify rather than all the reasons for us to be divided.

[01:27:19]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: I think the critical race theory, as it has been defined in the last two years, is certainly dangerous, divisive. It does not have a place in our schools. And I would say again, I'm grateful to the governor for making that clear. With regard to text books and being charged with our text book being infused with critical race theory, the fact is this board follows the lead of the governor. So, we chose books off of the governor's accepted list, and we will continue to do that. We're in the process now, we have math books hanging out there that we need to find out if they're going to be approved or not. It doesn't really matter. If he says no go, guess what? We are not going to approve those books. Because we will follow the governor's lead. He's in an education governor. He increased teacher's pay. He's brought us new standards. He's done so much for education. And so, I trust where he stands, and [inaudible 01:28:16].

[01:28:22]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: CRT basically believes our generation re-enacts the previous generation. I think with respect to our schools, we do not teach CRT in our schools. And if we do, if we find somebody encouraging that, they will get their due process. And we will see if they actually are [inaudible 01:28:51]. The governor says it's not going to be taught in school. We have to let the process go on.

I would also say that in our three audits that we've had, they do look into all schools. That's why [inaudible 01:29:06]. They evaluate all finances of the district. And they found no major findings at all in the audit. Once again, I'll say we do an outside audit every year.

[01:29:26]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: The critical race theory, as you've already heard, is divisive. But it's an ideology. Also, we have to understand that the critical race theory and social-emotional learning are twin systems. CRT is the ideology. SEL is the vehicle being used. Over 20 years ago, SEL was started by the [inaudible 01:29:57], and they have been using it. It started actually in the schools, I think, when [inaudible 01:03:06], which at the time when our school system [inaudible 01:30:08].

You'll have to understand this background. The background is that we've reached or are trying to indoctrinate our students into obedience [inaudible 01:30:20] of our system. If they get that accomplished [inaudible 01:30:27]. There was no other [inaudible 01:30:31] in our system then.

Chad Taylor: Time.

Jerry Rutherford: But right now, after that period of time, there are 110 [inaudible 01:30:39] is inappropriate. It's wrong. It's indoctrinated.

[01:30:47]

Chad Taylor: And Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: It's been a while so I'll repeat the question. In your own words, what is the critical race theory and does it belong in the schools? The answer to that is no, it does not belong in the schools. In my words, it's Marxism, and CRT wants to bring down every individual that's out there. It uses your weaknesses. It makes you think that someone is less than you and not as equal as you, and it started with Marxism which is an earlier question. It goes back to CRT. I think gets into little, tiny aspects that you don't need to think about - alcohol, drugs, everything that takes your mind away from things. I just do not believe it belongs in there and they're pushing everything that they can to break down morals and make you feel you're not equal with everyone else.

We're all God's creatures. We're all equal. And all are the same no matter what others think we are. It doesn't matter where we came from if we all work together. Thank you.

[01:31:53]

Chad Taylor: Okay, the next question. Give me an example of a time when you stood up for someone who didn't have the ability to defend themselves. First up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: This is a great question. What comes to mind at first, for me, is my work on the charter school board and starting Mason Classical Academy. For years, the school has been under attack by the school district. They've even tried to shut it down. And to me, I feel like I was defending the students that attend the school - and the families that felt their children's education was at risk.

They'll tell you a different story, but unfortunately, the records and documents tell the truth. I've been fighting, right now, for three years on this. And it's my children's education, but also, we've got over 1,000 kids coming in next year. And these parents value their children's education. So, that's my example. Thank you.

[01:33:15]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: I've been doing that for over 35 years, standing up for the parents that cannot or would not attend the school board meetings. I've been their voice against all the schools that were trying put there that I knew was wrong, and it wasn't the type of education I had when I came up and I knew it was wrong. If you understand where other people come from, you can see what's happened in the past, what's happening in the future, and you can make some kind of judgement. I've stood against every idea the school board has brought up that I knew was notgodly or was not beneficial to these students. And I'll continue to do so. On the inside, I'll have a vote. At least I can have a vote in the county.

[01:34:08]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Timothy Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: Well, it goes back to running for the school board. I'm standing up for all the people and all the taxpayers here. I don't think they have quality education, and I didn't like the way they put masks on our children. Despite what the government says, they're children, and they shouldn't have to do that. So, I started on the school board race. That's just one example. I'm wanting to put some common sense back into the education.

Also, going back to where I live, dealing with the federal government wanting to cancel our flood insurance. That's not right. A lot of people didn't have the ability. I was on the Flood Alliance Board and stood up to the federal government and said, "You can't cancel the insurance." I said, "Is there any way to take that one section of town out of the flood insurance plan?"

They said, "No." After fighting back and forth with them for a year and a half, they said, "Oh, we can VR-13 it and take that section out."

I go, "Why did we have to spend a year and a half to two years waiting for something that should have been done originally?" So, if you stand up to them, something is going to change.

[01:35:17]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: So, my [inaudible 01:35:25] brings up an interesting point, which is when I first got on the board, we had almost 100 parents write letters to the governor and appeal to the board about their treatment at Mason Classical. And we certainly did try to stand up for them, not that we were trying to shut down the school but simply discuss better ways of governance to allow for parents' rights.

So, I'm very happy we're here to support parents' rights at Mason. Because at this point, the only rights that I'm aware that exists are the right to leave if you don't like it. And I think that's a shame, because I think we're all here because we're patriots and we believe in that person has the right to free speech for assembly, for presentations. So, again, just to clarify the record, we absolutely tried to stand up for parents who felt that their voices were not being heard. We're certainly not trying to close a high-quality [inaudible 01:36:18].

[01:36:25]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: This is a tough question, because when you're in the school business and you're working with the students, there are many, many times where you have to stand up for individual students whether you defend them or you have to [inaudible 01:36:44].

But one incident that I can think of was a student came to me at the end of high school and asked if I would give him his diploma before the actual graduation, before he actually completed his classes. That probably wouldn't have gone well if I had asked somebody if I could do that. His mother was dying of cancer, and I said, "I'll meet you at 6:00 at your house." I took a diploma with me. The house was very dark, and the mother was lying in bed obviously close to death, don't have much time, but I handed her the diploma, and then I left. It was a very good feeling to know that I helped someone in need.

[01:37:38]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: As Mr. Terry said, in our role as board members, we get some-- mostly, it's emails. Some of them are hard to read, but they are concerned about their children. And that's where we come in and we try to [inaudible 01:38:05]. There's one case that I felt that I had some impact on. It's about child that had been hurt in the class. It wasn't [inaudible 01:38:23] especially by the teacher. It wasn't overt. And in fact, I had to go to the school and make sure that that kind of situation didn't happen again.

[01:18:42]

Chad Taylor: Next up Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: I have two examples. The first one was about a student I had, and she was also in the system. This girl was labeled as a troublemaker, and she was in and out of [inaudible 01:39:01]. And I sat down with her because nobody would take the time to speak to her, and did a business plan for her. We came up with she wanted to clean houses and babysit. So, I took it upon myself to do the business plan for her, got approval from her case manager to be able to drive her to these employers and have her work. That girl did a 360% turn around. She is amazing now. She left that gang she was in, and she's doing amazing.

My other story was a man that was in a car, who got out of the car to beat up his dog. And guess who jumped out of the car to defend the dog? Myself. Because I respect all living things.

[01:39:47]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: I'm taking a stand now by running for the school board, but prior, when I was a mom of six, I had definitely taken a stand for my own children. One is the time I think about my second oldest who is now 15. I had to fight to get her IEP. In case anybody who doesn't know, who has not experienced the right to IEP, and what you go through when anyone files with the school to get the assistance for your student that needs help, it's not fun. It's not easy, and it is ridiculous. And I stood up and fought.

In fact, my son said, "Maybe she needs to find another school."

And I said, "No. I won't do that." My daughter is, today, a successful student and is moving on to ninth grade because I stood up and fought for her. So, I will continue to fight for all students even those who are needing IEPs or special assistance. Thank you.

[01:40:48]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: Where do I begin? I've had a lifetime of standing up for those who cannot defend themselves starting in the schoolyard/playground with bullies that were picking on the kids that are vulnerable. And then I advocated for patients when I worked in the healthcare industry to make sure that they were getting the proper healthcare and getting reimbursed by insurance companies for it.

Then I moved into my daughter. I also had to fight all the time with the system to get her the proper education. But I had to fight with her doctors all the time. She has severe asthma and all they wanted to do was to continue to give her steroids. And I said, "No. We need to get her [inaudible 01:41:31]." They would test for food allergies. I insisted. I had to go through some more factors, fighting conditions. She is allergic to wheat, gluten, dairy, corn, soy, and egg. Had I not persisted, she would still have a [inaudible 01:41:45] part of life. I persisted, and now she's free from all of those allergies, because we have the right medical treatment for her. [inaudible 01:41:54].

[01:41:58]

Chad Taylor: We have one more question and then we'll take one or two from the audience. The next question is **should school board meetings be moved to 6:00 p.m. for working parents to have the opportunity to attend? Why or why not?** First up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: [inaudible 01:42:14].

Chad Taylor: The question is should school board meetings be moved to 6:00 p.m. for working parents to have the opportunity to attend? Why or why not?

Jerry Rutherford: They should be definitely moved up so the parents can get out to the school board meetings. It used to be that way. The school board meetings started at 6:00 and sometimes would go until 9:00 and after. It needs to be where the parents are given the opportunity to gather. Also, the school teachers and students need that opportunity to gather. So, if we go back to what we had, I think

we'd see a lot more opportunity for parents being there and students and teachers. If they had the opportunity to gather, they would.

[01:43:02]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: I'm not opposed to that. In fact, we used to have a 4:00 start time when I first came to the board and given all comments in case you [inaudible 01:43:12]. I asked the superintendent and the board agreed that he would be willing to give us business time to [inaudible 01:43:21]. We need to look at that and get a parents' survey and find out what the parents want. I'm not opposed to that all. I think it's important to know, too, that other districts around the state were actually decreasing public speaking time during the pandemic, down from three minutes to two minutes, in some cases, one minute an hour. We did not mess with comments. If we were there until midnight, we would be there until midnight to hear from our public.

There were boards that moved public comments to the very back of the meeting so they could weed people out, hoping they could go home, go away. We did not do that. So, as a parent in the district, who shares concerns, like you, I think it's important to be responsible and have the people that put you there.

[01:44:07]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: Yes, I do think they should be moved down to 6:00 p.m. to ensure all parents are able to make it. Also, I do feel that we should be sending out the agenda so parents know what is being covered, and if they have any issues, they can prepare and bring in any questions to the board. Thank you.

[01:44:36]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: I'm not opposed to changing the time for the meetings. If we're going to be late, that's okay as long as we hear specific views. So, that's not the problem. We lose time already, and if we hear from people that we know don't have enough time, it's not unusual for everyone to do that.

[01:45:09]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: I think 6:00 would be helpful to a lot of parents as well as teachers and staff. I also think there should be opportunity to participate online. We saw, during Covid, how government entities were able to allow a Zoom call-in or virtual education and even allow those people also to make public comments. So, that employee that maybe has to be at work at 6:30 or 7:00 or 8:00 and can't take the time to sit there and wait on public comments, they can dial in and be able to participate in these meetings.

I think making as many avenues possible for our citizens - the taxpayers, the parents, everyone - to participate is absolutely important. And we should definitely do that.

[01:46:04]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: Yes, 100%. I think it should be at least 6:00, maybe a little bit later. I live in Everglade City. It's an hour to get up here. Those parents that are picking up their kids at other schools that are unable to make it, and most people have normal 9:00 to 5:00 jobs, and they have to be able to do something before they get there, maybe eat dinner or something. Sometimes meetings do run late, so 6:30 or 7:00 would work probably better for most people.

[01:46:41]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: As an elected board member representing over 47,000 students and families, I do think we should move the time. I think it has been brought up, a suggestion is to do a survey and reach out to the constituents and see if that works for them - at 6:00. So, I am in support, and I thinking feedback would be wonderful.

[01:47:15]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: Since I have been on the board, we have had many different times that we've started. I'm not opposed to any time. It's more to meet the parents. If we get more there, then it would be great if we start at 6:00. But my experience has been that most of the time, it doesn't really matter when it starts. If they want to get there, they will. But I'm not opposed to 6:00.

[01:47:49]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: Yes, absolutely. We need to change the time. Because we need as much parental and community involvement as possible, and we need to advocate to promote that.

[01:48:04]

Chad Taylor: Okay, now, we are going to move to a question or two from the audience. Randy's going to take them up and total them.

Randy Harris: I can only take one or two, because I want to get back. Okay, Gail. Does anybody else got one?

Gail: Hi, I'm Gail. I'm a Collier County taxpayer and a Kids First volunteer. First, thank you to all of you. You've put so much time into this, and it's great for you to do this for our community. My question is: **if you're successful in becoming a schoolboard member, how would you ensure to comply to Florida statutes to prohibit sexually explicit and pornographic material not only in the library but in the media center, in the text books and in the teacher's packs?**

[01:49:00]

Chad Taylor: First up, Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: First of all, we have a book committee that goes through the books. We're made up of 20 individuals. We're developing a procedure right now to evaluate library books of interest. There are about 150 for us to develop a policy. We'll be going through those with a committee of people that will look at the books and make that determination. I think that, also, we have instructional materials that have come to us with teachers' views. We've looked into that, and we've investigated. And we'll see what we need to do about that. So, we have many procedures in place to take care of this process. A lot of it depends on **[inaudible 01:49:52]** what books are in our libraries and schools. So, it's very important to get the communication with parents and others as to what they feel about the books.

[01:50:08]

Chad Taylor: Time. Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: Sexually explicit materials need to be removed in the blink of an eye, in my opinion, for the school board to get those off the shelves right away, pending further review and discussion from this committee so they can move forward with a better option so that that material is not available, still, for students.

As far as instructional materials, **[inaudible 01:50:36]** because that requires each leader in each school to be paying attention to what the teacher is doing, right? And so, that is per our culture and the value system within this district. And those administrators need to be on top of those teachers and staff as the leader of that school. They need to be making sure that what they're bringing into their students is above board and that they're not putting gender **[inaudible]** graphics up in English class.

So, I think there should be a transparency as far as a reporting process for those issues, because I know parents have hard time reporting things and actually seeing action behind it. Whether it goes in favor of the district or the parents are right, either way, I think there needs to be transparency. Thank you.

[01:51:21]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: I will share a story about my time on the school board between 2014 and 2018. This is not a new issue. We had a parent who was reading from the middle school media center books during public comment. In fact, the board chair at the time, Kathy Curatolo, tried to shut him down because the material he was reading was so offensive and disturbing and very explicit details. He was allowed to continue reading the three minutes. What was so crazy is that the board majority still supported keeping these books in the schools. I was in the voting minority. During those four years, it was very difficult to get much change.

So, one of the other solutions that evolved, this has been an issue. But a solution I have, I think really it comes down to District Counsel I don't think Mr. Fishbane understands the law, or if he does, he likes to twist it so it supports the agenda. I think we need a new attorney. And the attorney represents the board, not the superintendent.

[01:52:38]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: Well, this is going to be easy for me. The Florida Citizens Alliance has already gone through and listed all the books and said what doesn't belong in the classrooms. I'm going to be taking all these books out of the classroom. I don't think it would be that difficult to do. People have been dragging their feet [inaudible] say, "You've got to do this; you've got to do that." And then they have to go back in, which I don't think they will. Let them fight to put them back in. It's easier to just take them out.

Also, I want cameras in the classroom so we can see if there's an issue with teaching something or one student putting something that shouldn't be there or a teacher putting something in the classroom and talking about something, you can go back and review it. It shouldn't be available for everyone to see, but if there's an issue or if a parent brings up something then there's some video backup. Cameras are on all the busses in the school system and in the [inaudible 01:53:38] area at the bus stops. So, we should do that in the classrooms also. That's about it. Just keep it simple and remove the books [inaudible 01:53:48].

[01:53:52]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: Thanks for that question. I know it's near and dear to your heart. And when you stood up to read very explicit material at our board meetings, you had hoped that I would stop you. But I didn't. Because I think it's important for my fellow partners in the community here to know exactly what's in some of these materials. Not all of them. It is not as black and white as you may think. Because again, some of these books, I believe the governor is protecting some of them. Because they're for college credit, some of these books are of literary value, as outlined in state statute.

So, I didn't stop you because I thought the shock value was important for people to understand, what exactly are we talking about? As [inaudible] we are working on a new policy, we're rolling it out on Monday. Thankfully, the governor came up with a very sound law and now our policy is in alignment with that law. You will hear about it on May 23rd. Thank you.

[01:54:58]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: I also want to thank Florida Citizens Alliance for doing the ground work, looking for the books that were in our school libraries with explicit details for these children - also, gender identity, gender dysphoria in our schools - which children at the kindergarten level or any level do not need to be reading about this. With regards to the explicit detailed books that children are reading nowadays in our schools, thank you, Gail, for reading that at the school board. As far as I can remember, at that meeting, some of the school board members were suggesting putting a sticker on the books.

Now, who is going to prevent the children from standing there and just cruising through the book and reading these materials? They do not have a place in our school. I'm sorry if they're given college credits, but I think they should pick other books. Thank you.

[01:55:59]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: We do have some books that are very controversial, and now, we have a procedure in place where several committees will be gathering. And they will consist of teachers, parents, and university experts. And the book will be analyzed by [inaudible] with people in committees like teachers, four to five committees that will be in place to do this. And they will make the decision about that book, whether it stays in our media center or not. So, that's coming up. Did you say Sunday?

Jen Mitchell: I said Monday.

Jory Westberry: Monday.

[01:56:55]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: School board members, superintendents, librarians, and administration should have the highest moral standards. They should be able to comprehend when something is wrong and support it. All sensitive material should be eliminated from our schools [inaudible 01:57:19] over a period of years. We must reverse the trend and stand for what's right.

[01:57:32]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: No, we should not have those materials in our media centers. They are explicit and that should be left up to the parent's discretion. The taxpayers should not be paying for those materials to be in the media centers. And if they are for a required class, I believe that those can be purchased elsewhere. Also, I would ask the question, "Why do we have to wait for the governor to pass legislation when local government - the school board - could do it themselves?" They do not have to wait for the governor. They can do it.

[01:58:19]

Chad Taylor: Okay. That brings us to a close. Would you all like to do one more?

Randy Harris: Yeah, I've got a yes or no question, I think. If somebody could just do a yes or no, because I know we've got to still close out. It won't take too long. Bear with us for a couple more minutes.

Unknown Male: Okay. Thank you. I have to deconstruct this question to make it yes or no. But coming from an investment background, how many corporations have you worked with? And the majority of the board decides which direction they're going to go. So, in school systems, where our federal government is never meant to take part in any way, shape, or form, in the education of our children, here's my question. I believe this budget is consistent with about 17% from the federal government. Would you agree? Or would you say yes or no to giving the majority of shareholders, which are us, the taxpayers, in this county, full control over what is decided to be taught in our schools. So, that's a yes or no question. Thank you.

[01:59:25]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Jana Greer.

Jana Greer: Yes.

Chad Taylor: All right. Jerry Rutherford.

Jerry Rutherford: Yes.

Chad Taylor: Roy Terry.

Roy Terry: Yes.

Chad Taylor: Jory Westberry.

Jory Westberry: I'm not sure I understood the question.

Unknown Male: The question is [inaudible 01:59:46]. Right now, the school gets mandates from the federal government. They're 17% of the minority shareholders. We're the majority shareholders. It should be our staff. So, will you fight back? Which means if you have been refused money from the federal government to hold to your core beliefs, would you be willing to give that up?

Jory Westberry: I'd like to compromise and keep my core beliefs and keep the money.

[02:00:26]

Chad Taylor: Next up, Ana Turino.

Ana Turino: Yes.

Chad Taylor: Tim Moshier.

Timothy Moshier: Yes.

Chad Taylor: Jen Mitchell.

Jen Mitchell: I just want to make sure I understand the question. [inaudible 02:00:36 - 02:00:49] No, I would not support that.

Unknown Male: I'm saying hold your ground for the majority. We are the majority. And if the school budget gets 17% from the federal government, meaning 83% comes from us, we should have the majority say through you school board members.

Jen Mitchell: [02:01:06 - 02:01:09]. So, if I understand correctly, yes.

Unknown Male: So, you're saying you will fight for us.

Jen Mitchell: Yes.

Chad Taylor: Thank you. Next up, Kimberly Boobyer.

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: Yes.

Jerry Rutherford: I don't know if I understood the question, but I would say the government should not be involved with the school board, period.

Chad Taylor: Kelly Lichter.

Kelly Lichter: Yes.

[02:01:46]

Chad Taylor: We're going to come to a close here. With that, I'd like to give all of our candidates here 30 seconds to do some **closing remarks**. Since we started out with Tim here at the end, we're going to start our closing remarks with Jerry Rutherford, and we'll work our way down. Jerry, you're up. 30 seconds for your closing remarks.

Jerry Rutherford: America was built on a solid foundation of faith, truth, and morality. America stood on that foundation for over 300 years. One day, **[inaudible 02:02:17]** came in and started chipping away at that foundation. They were not happy with the house that was built. So, they started building another house on the sands of humanism, communism, socialism, and Marxism.

The storms of blight are starting to beat on that house built on the sand, and it's starting to crumble. **[inaudible 02:02:40]** will fall **[inaudible 02:02:42]**. The foundation of America is **[inaudible 02:02:45]**. We need some repair, some reparation. And I hope you'll join me.

[02:02:55]

Kimberly Ann Boobyer: As a school board member, I will fight for all students and protect parental rights. I will strive to be fiscally responsible with a \$1.3 million budget. Rather than focusing only on accolades, I will vow to improve the areas where the students need it to be improved. CCPS has failed them. Lely High has nearly 60% of students failing E, LA, and math in grades three through ten. They are not alone. It's time for the leadership and governance that will assure all students' success. Vote for me, Kimberly Boobyer, the best candidate for District 1.

[02:03:35]

Jory Westberry: Make no mistake. School boards make decisions based on information, assessment of alternatives, and **[inaudible 02:03:41]**. My experience in education is a plus. And when I was elected, I completely ran out of money. Public service is part of my DNA. Some run for the school board with an agenda. I'm running for re-election because of my dedication to education in Collier County. And a belief that we can continue to make an A school district even better.

[02:04:10]

Kelly Lichter: First, I want to thank Destiny Church, Randy, our moderator, Chad for a great event. And thank all of you for coming here on a Saturday morning. I really appreciate it. My name is Kelly Lichter. My website is KellyLichter.com. I just want to say that I do believe I have the courage, the credibility, and the commitment for not only the children and families here but for the taxpayers. And I hope I will have your support August 23rd. The primary is so incredibly important, and we need to get out and vote. Tell your friends; tell your neighbors. Thank you.

[02:04:45]

Jen Mitchell: Thank you for the opportunity to share the truth about our schools with you today. We are a board that upholds the Constitution and follows the law. We follow the lead of our governor, we returned to in-person learning and extracurricular activities as well as going mask optional, **[inaudible 02:04:58]**. We have a record-high graduation rate. We outperform the state on all tested areas, and we **[inaudible 02:05:05]**.

We'll be technically debt free by 2026. And we're currently paying cash for the high school under construction to save taxpayers \$41 million in interest. We have a lot to be proud of, but we certainly have work to do. I intend to continue to uphold parents rights in education, to focus on increasing student achievement and extending career and technical education and of course maintaining strict oversight of the budget.

[02:05:28]

Chad Taylor: Time.

Jana Greer: Thank you, Destiny and Chad and Randy, for all of you here today. **[inaudible 02:05:37]** for coming out. My name is Jana Greer, and I'm running to be your next Collier County school board member. I want to be your next school board member because I'm not a politician. I'm a wife, a mom of six. I'm a businesswoman. I have the competency, the experience through business to help bring this school board back forward.

We have allowed the left to come in and take over our education system. And we need to turn this ship around. I believe that you, as the citizens, have parental rights and the responsibility to keep **[overlapping speech 02:06:10]**. I thank you. Vote on August 23rd.

[02:06:17]

Roy Terry: First of all, I'd like to thank everybody for coming today. I know this is Saturday morning. You could be doing a lot of other things, but I'm happy to see everybody here. I'm proud to be part of **[inaudible 02:06:27]**. For the last 10 years, we've improved the graduation rates by 20% - to 93.7%. We got a **[inaudible 02:06:35]** bonus from the state, and we'll be debt free by 2026. For five years, we've been a grade A school.

But there's always room for improvement - teachers' salaries, affordable houses rezoning. We continue to support for **[inaudible 02:06:51]** career and education program. That's because we have real challenges. I'm asking for your vote. Vote for Roy Terry on August 23rd.

[02:07:03]

Ana Turino: Thank you all for coming today. I totally appreciate it. I am the best candidate in District 5. I will not follow the status quo **[inaudible 02:07:11]** rule. I will look for the facts, I will take into consideration the constituents, which are in actuality our bosses. You are the majority. And I will look to see that we educate our children the way it is stated it should be done.

I will be transparent and respect everybody's intake, and I will ensure that our teachers are taken care of. I am for school choice, teacher training and retention. Thank you. Vote for me, Ana Turino.

[02:07:44]

Timothy Moshier: My name is Tim Moshier. I'm running for school board. We have to remember our children are our most precious assets. We have to teach them how to learn, not what to learn. We don't need to indoctrinate a decision that they already are. I spent 30 years in the trucking business. I've delivered everything you have on a truck sometime in my lifetime.

Without people like myself, who are in the trucking business, we wouldn't have anything. We need a good education. The last choice that was given to us was based on oppressed people. These are simple questions that should be able to be answered and should be done. It shouldn't take this long.

[02:08:29]

Randy Harris: Okay. Thank you very much. We have questionnaires here. If you ladies, please, will stand up. If you did not get one of the small-poll ballots, please raise your hand, we'll get them passed out to you. We've got one in front. We have one for each district. Mark one name on each district. Just one name on these three districts. Will you do that for us, please?

And are you going to take them up after this? Or are they going to give it at the back? So, if you get them right, we'll take those up. Thank you very much, candidates. I appreciate you very much for being here.

[applause 02:09:15]

Randy Harris: I hope we have **[inaudible 02:09:24]** in a very fair way. Because that was our intention. I really enjoyed the answers I heard. I thank you very much for you guys, the ones who set up here. There were a lot of things you could be doing. This is the most important thing that we have to do for a long, long time. This is for the future of our children. So, I want to thank those running for the school board for coming out. Let's give them a big hand.

[applause 02:09:55]

Randy Harris: I would have loved to have read through all the questions, but he's a marine, and I lost. He did a wonderful job, and I love **[inaudible 02:10:16]**. It's always good to have a ghost writer for writing questions, because he can write them in a way that makes them sound very, very nice and direct and to the point. I'm stalling here so everybody gets these turned in.

August 23rd, guys. We must get out and vote on August 23rd. It is imperative. August 23rd, people have the opportunity to vote in each one of the three districts. No matter where you live or what district you're in, you can vote in 1, 3, and 5. Do not forget to do that. I see people are leaving, so I'm going to shut down. I should have done a song and dance. Thank you, guys, very much.

[session ends 02:11:09]

Professional transcript by Patricia Wilson via [Upwork](#).