

**Conservative Christian Coalition
District 3 - Collier County School Board Candidate Town Hall
May 21, 2022**

	Jana Greer	Kelly Lichter	Jen Mitchell
<p>Introduce yourself [00:10:11]</p>	<p>I'm an America First constitutional conservative. I'm a wife and a mother of six children, five within the school district; my youngest is three.</p>	<p>I am a wife, a mom of two school-age children. My husband and I started Mason Classical Academy in 2011. I served on the Collier School Board from 2014 to 2018.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Why are you running for School Board? <i>[Some candidates offered this in their introductions although it was not specifically asked for.]</i></p>	<p>I'm running because we need change. We have fallen far away from our American values within our classrooms.</p>	<p>After watching what has gone on and what the current school board and school district have been doing [since she left the Board in 2018], it's time to get back in the race and make some major changes.</p>	
<p>Should biological males be allowed to compete in female sports? [00:16:18]</p>	<p>No. But they should be given the opportunity to create another group and to have their own sports.</p>	<p>No. There is definitely a biological difference between a male and female.</p>	<p>No. If someone wanted to create a third class, that would be fair. But males biologically competing in events with females is against the law.</p>
<p>What is your stance on abortion, and how would it guide your school policies? [00:22:05]</p>	<p>It should not be allowed. It is a human life at conception.... 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>I think it's important to distinguish between [inaudible] actions and educating actions. There are conversations that are best left for parents, and I will always support parents having the right to opt out.</p>

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<p>How should American exceptionalism and Marxism be taught in schools? [00:29:01]</p>	<p>We need to teach our kids 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.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>How have you demonstrated that you're the best candidate to be a school board member? [00:37:18]</p>	<p>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 I can possibly be.</p>	<p>My track record speaks for itself in terms of the education that we're providing at Mason [Classical Academy] eight years in. And we are the top performing school. I know what works. Also, I have the courage to stand up to the current regime. And I also have shown the commitment. I volunteered my time for the last 12 years...</p>	<p>You get my cell phone number. If you have a problem, you can bring that problem to me. You get my undivided attention. Also, you need a board member that can build consensus and be able to communicate with one another, be respectful to one another. And that's what this board has done. I think, too, we're a board that upholds the Constitution and follows the law.</p>

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<p>Are you willing to stand for what you believe is right even when the rules say otherwise? And how have you demonstrated that?</p> <p>[00:45:49]</p>	<p>Yes, I will stand up for what I believe in. In order to stand, you have to be rooted in your faith and your God views, and I am.</p>	<p>When I was on the school board, the teacher unions were putting political materials about other School Board candidates in the teacher mailboxes. I said that should not be allowed because those mailboxes are paid for by the taxpayers. The District Counsel disagreed, but I stood up for what is right and on behalf of the taxpayers.</p>	<p>This past year, the School Board began working on policy to get sexually explicit materials out of the media centers unless we had written express permission from the parent. I'm simply asking that parents give written permission for the student to opt into that.</p> <p>Another example is with the masks. A Department of Education Emergency Order said 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.</p>
<p>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?</p> <p>[00:54:08]</p>	<p>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 a culture where parents are really heard and issues are not shoved under the rug, to help all students, and who will be an advocate for all students, the parents, and the teachers.</p>	<p>Honesty and integrity are first and foremost. Also, someone who's a parent, is fiscally responsible, cares more about acknowledging the deficiencies in our student achievement - because that's a priority - rather than self-promotion.</p>	<p>It's important for the community to have input as to what they're looking for as in the next superintendent, not just whoever is sitting on the board.</p> <p>I'd like to see a priority with regard to being focused on academic achievement, community involvement, and communication with the public.</p>

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<p>What are your views on parental rights versus state responsibility? [01:04:29]</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>I'm a huge advocate of a parent's ability to make decisions on what's best for their children.</p>	<p>CCPS actually was the first District to allow parents to opt out of any assignment, a book, reproductive health lessons, any of those things. I will continue to fight to uphold parental rights.</p>
<p>Are you in favor of a comprehensive, outside audit of the school system's budget? Why or why not? [01:13:24]</p>	<p>Yes, I'm in favor of an outside audit of our school system budget. Not just a forensic audit but also an efficiency audit. We need to look at where we are spending money.</p>	<p>Yes, I strongly believe we need an outside audit of the school system's budget. We need to dig really deep and get staff out of the way here.</p>	<p>The District undergoes an overall an audit annually by outside agencies. The state also comes in. But this board took it a step further. We actually hired a risk assessment. During my time on the board, we have had no significant findings in any of our audits.</p>

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<p>In your own words, what is critical race theory, and does it belong in the school system? [01:22:50]</p>	<p>The critical race theory tells me that I am white, and I am the 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.</p>	<p>It is a political agenda about teaching our kids that being white isn't good and that you need to apologize. And as much as the District has said it is not in our schools, I question why they purchased a book for administrators called <u>Unconscious Bias in Schools</u> and spent taxpayer money on it. I also have questions about their new hire, the Director of Equity and Inclusion, a six-figure job. Isn't that how the CRT starts to infiltrate in our schools?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>With regard to being charged with our text books being infused with critical race theory, the fact is this Board follows the lead of the Governor. We chose books off of the governor's accepted list, and we will continue to do that.</p>
<p>Give me an example of a time when you stood up for someone who didn't have the ability to defend themselves. [01:31:53]</p>	<p>I'm taking a stand now by running for the school board. As a mom of six, I stood up for my own children. I had to fight to get an IEP [Individualized Educational Plan] for my second oldest, who is now 15.</p>	<p>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. 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.</p>	<p>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. 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.</p>
<p>Should school board meetings be moved to 6:00 p.m. for working parents to have the opportunity to attend? Why or why not? [01:41:58]</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes. And as has been brought up, a survey of the constituents to see if 6:00 works for them.</p>	<p>I'm not opposed to that. We need to do a parents' survey and find out what the parents want.</p>

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<p>Question from the audience: 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? [01:48:04]</p>	<p>The school board should get sexually explicit materials off the shelves right away, pending further review and discussion from this committee.</p> <p>As for instructional materials, administrators need to be on top of those teachers and staff as the leader of that school. There should be a transparent reporting process for those issues, because parents have hard time reporting things and actually seeing action behind it.</p>	<p>I will share a story about my time on the school board between 2014 and 2018.... 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.</p>	<p>It is not as black and white as you may think. The Governor is protecting some of these books because they're for college credit, some of these books are of literary value as outlined in state statutes. We are working on the new policy, and 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.</p>
<p>Question from the audience: 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. [01:59:25]</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>	<p>Yes.</p>