

NABOR School Board Candidate Forum
June 21, 2022

DISTRICT 5				
Arthur Boyer	Jackie Keay	Timothy Moshier	Roy Terry	Ana Turino
Opening Statements				
[00:12:04] Time, results, and conditions of our schools, working conditions of our teachers, living conditions of our teachers and staff, those are the reasons why I'm running. [We] are not going to take chances with any candidate who has been leading all those failing schools. We're not going to take any chances with any candidate whose decision is going to be seen as a conflict-of-interest issues.	[00:13:58] Our school system is hemorrhaging as far as the students' mental health. Another hemorrhage is also our teachers. My goal is ensuring that kids have the best quality education that puts them on par with the global world, as well as ensuring that teachers have the support, but also the latitude to teach. But ultimately, I am for students first.	[00:15:36] I started going to school board meetings a year ago, March. It all started with the mask mandate; I didn't think we should be masking our children. We have just over 3,100 teachers and over 4,000 administrators. I want to know why we have more administrators and nonteaching positions than teaching positions. Our teachers are making 15% below the national average, and with a \$1.3 billion budget, we should be able to pay our teachers what they're worth. Almost 40% of the students aren't	[00:19:18] Why am I running? For the students. They deserve a safe, well-organized, and effective learning environment. For the teachers. They need to feel that we have their back, and they should be able to educate our students without the fear of retribution. Our parents need to feel their child is in a safe environment and are being taught by highly educated and caring teachers. Our community needs to know that we are providing well-educated, patriotic young people who will contribute to the positive development	[00:17:23] Teachers cannot really teach. We have different levels of students. We do have teachers doing other duties, other than teaching our students. We need to teach our kids, not just put them in front of a computer and have them learn on their own No. Have the teacher stand up on the board and teach the students.
1. What do you envision the role to be of the school board when it comes to safety on school campuses and preventing incidences of gun violence like we've seen recently at the elementary school in Uvalde, Texas and the 2018 high school mass shooting in Parkland?				
[00:51:27] There shouldn't be any budget limit to protect our children. I think that it's great what we are doing in Collier County, but we need to work closer with local law enforcement officials and give our officials the authority to act to serve and protect our children. They go to school to learn, but not to be assassinated.	[00:50:39] Since this is a systemic problem, we need a systemic change in regulation. I was in the military. Before you could even get a weapon or join the military, you had to do a background check. And before they would even put a weapon in your hand, you had to go through weapons training. So, I feel like that should be a part of the process. And also, again, everything boils down to education. We have young kids who are playing with weapons who are killing themselves, killing their parents, and we need to educate them as well. But again, school board members need to connect to the community to provide education,	[00:49:48] All schools should have turnstiles to get in. Also, The Guardian Program is very good. I mean, the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. So, I'm for that.	[00:47:11] Safety in schools is probably the most important issue, in this day and age, on children's, parents' and the community's mind. It's very, very important that we, as a school board in the district, provide a safe environment for education to occur.	[00:48:40] I think what we are doing right now is great, but I honestly feel we should be doing more. We should look into other programs like The Guardian Program and see how that can benefit us. If a teacher already has a concealed carry, are they responsible enough to carry and protect our kids? We really need to revisit this in order to protect our teachers and our students and our staff.
2. In late March, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law, The Parental Rights in Education bill. You may have heard this dubbed by opponents as the "Don't Say Gay" bill. Supporters say it's meant to allow parents to determine when and in what way to introduce LGBTQ topics to their children. Parents also have an option to sue a school district if the new policy is violated. Opponents argue it will hurt LGBTQ children, noting that LGBTQ youth already face higher health and suicide risks in their cisgender or straight peers, due in part to the marginalization they already face. As a member of the school board, how would you hope to balance compliance with this new law and what's in the best interest of all children in the district?				
[01:14:38] All students matter. As a school board member, I will work hard to avoid any targeting policies that would create even more division in our school system. Yes, parental rights. I also support the parental engagement and parental involvement.	[01:15:30] Balance means parents have a right to educate their children and have some input but not to dictate. One of my biggest concerns is for kids who have been sexually abused, whether it's in their home or whether it's due to sex trafficking. If that child shows any indication that something is wrong, or they're questioning their identity, then that teacher is required to report it to the parent who may very well be that person who was abusing the child. That child would be less likely to report	[01:13:04] Well, I really don't like the [HB]1557 "Don't Say Gay." I think it should go all the way through elementary school, have the parents opt in, not opt out. Keep it out of there. Maybe opt in when you get to junior high, and let the parents make the decision. It's the parents' child, and they should have the right to determine what they want.	[01:13:39] [Responding to Mr. Moshier] We don't have sex education being taught at the elementary or middle school levels. We start sex ed in the high schools with the health course. There are about five lessons in that course that discuss sexual education. Two weeks prior to that, a letter is sent home to parents so they know ahead of time that it's coming up, and they can opt out if they so desire. The agenda is not being taught in the schools. But I think we also have to realize that we	[01:11:45] It should be left to the parents when to discuss and bring up the LGBTQ subject; that is not something that should be brought up in the schools. There is 4% of the community that is part of the LGBTQ so I do not think it should be discussed in the schools. If the question comes up, the child should be referred to their parents. I do not think that is something that the teacher or anybody in the school system should speak to the child about.

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3. How would you characterize the duties and responsibilities of an elected county school board member? And since the School Board will be selecting a new district superintendent in the coming year, what qualities would you be looking for in a new superintendent?				
<p>[00:34:16] Duties and responsibilities - Did not answer.</p> <p>Should be from Collier County. Not only the book knowledge but the knowledge of the environment Ready to work for the best interests of Collier County without any special political agenda Someone with transformational skills</p>	<p>[00:35:40] To educate the families and the community about what the school board does and how they can be a part of that process. To hire a qualified superintendent.</p> <p>Someone who is not only inclusive but is innovative and has a vision for the community and looking at opportunities to transform education, especially as it relates to the trades, looking at opportunities when kids graduate, that they have a job and that they're able to support themselves and be a contributing member of our society as well as our community.</p>	<p>[00:36:39] Duties & responsibilities: Did not answer.</p> <p>Focus more on the almost 40% of the kids that are failing. Get back to phonics, basic education, basic reading skills, math skills. Bring the community closer together and then listen to what the parents have to say.</p>	<p>[00:38:28] Provide organization and a mission for the school district; be supporting and reviewing the superintendent; do observations and critiques; monitor finances within the school district; listen well to the concerns of others; able to work with others.</p> <p>Works well with others; is trustworthy; knows the Florida law; be organized; work well with the community. I think the current superintendent has gone to extreme lengths to do that.</p>	<p>[00:37:27] Listen to the concerned citizens and the parents when they bring an issue up to the board; respond at the moment or within 24 hours. Be boots on the ground.</p> <p>Someone that has had a position in the school system and knows the ins and outs of every single position in the schools. Able to communicate with the parents and with the teachers and everyone involved with our school system.</p>
4. Data released in April by the National Education Association shows that despite efforts by the Florida Legislature to improve teacher starting pay, Florida remains near the bottom in the ranking of average teacher pay. In 2020, the Florida Legislature enacted a plan to increase teacher starting salary to \$47,500 a year. As a result, starting teacher pay in Florida increased in the national ranking from 30th to 16th place, but the plan does little to help experienced teachers. Overall, Florida's average teacher pay ranking stands in 48th place. This plus Collier County's well-documented affordable housing crisis could make the region a difficult one for teachers to both live and work in. How could the school board be working on this issue regarding teacher pay and retention?				
<p>[01:02:04] As a board member, I would reconsider some administrative positions and some administrative salary also, because we cannot have the best schools, the best students, we cannot talk about success for the future if we are not taking care of our teachers.</p>	<p>[00:59:14] A school board member should to continue advocating for the superintendent, whoever that may be, to be online with creating or building workforce housing. We have enough money. We're going to be debt free. There's no reason why we shouldn't do that.</p>	<p>[00:15:36] Well, since we do have just over 3,100 teachers and over 4,000 administrators, I'd like to use some of that money, and switch it over to maybe 5% and start working your way there every year and moving it over to teachers' pay. The money is there; we just have to allocate it correctly and watch it.</p>	<p>[01:03:52] We're going to be debt free and 2026, which should allow us to have some money left to be able to provide that for more teacher pay.</p> <p>Also, we're having a new high school open up, and it's going to save us \$41 million because we're going to pay cash for that high school. So, I think we can find some money there in the next couple of years.</p> <p>Affordable housing: the school board, at its last meeting, announced a plan to use property down by Manatee to create modular housing for new teachers coming into the district, at a lower rent. Teachers can make the payments; the problem is the down payment. If we give them an opportunity to move down here, live in a modular home, save money, they'll be able to save enough after four or five years to be able to move out.</p>	<p>[01:02:54] I strongly feel that we really need to revisit the budget. I don't think it's an efficient budget. I really think we need to revisit it and allocate, move around the budget so that we can give teachers raises.</p>

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<p>5. Local school district officials all over Florida are now engaging with the impact of new education legislation that allows parents to have more input in what sorts of materials are available to students in school libraries and on school media center shelves. House Bill 1467 gives parents, and anyone from the public, more access to the process of selecting and removing books and instructional materials. 5a. What role should members of the school board play in this process? 5b. And what metric would you apply to determine if a request to remove a certain book or material should be followed and then that material not be made available to students?</p>				
<p>[01:28:22] It is important that the whole community get involved - parents, teachers, students, and specifically, board members, because we are the community advocates. We need to go out there, talk to people, get people involved as much as we can, because school board members are the voice of the community.</p>	<p>[01:26:16] Students first. I would like to include students in the process, because they're the ones who are going to be getting educated on the book. Parents, teachers, students should all have a part in this process, and a metrics for it would be like movies. If you can rate a movie G, PG13, why not rate books that way? And that way, it's put in the appropriate hands of the students who would read it.</p>	<p>[01:24:04] I'd like to see more community input and have the school board listen to what they have to say and be able to review the books. If the community gets more involved with the books, then bring it to the school board's attention, then they should be able to listen to a little bit more about what they have to do.</p>	<p>[01:27:15] The School District <u>has been</u> listening to the community and to parents. And it's not just parents, the community can object to these books. We already have a process in place to handle this. We are advertising now for people to serve on that committee. It's to be made up of community members, teachers, administrators, and parents. They will review all the books and come back with a whether they should be eliminated or not. I'm against removing them immediately from the library. I would leave the books in the schools until the committee has a chance to look</p>	<p>[01:25:31] I agree that there should be more community involvement. But how are we going to accommodate our Haitian community or our Hispanic community? Every parent in our community should be able to look at these books and make an objection if there is one. As a board member, I would like to be involved, as well, and participate and attend and speak to the concerned citizens or the parents.</p>