



Candidate Questionnaire - School Board Member
August 2022 Primary Election

Your name: Jerry Rutherford
Your email address: info@jerryrutherford.com
Your phone number: 239-825-0145
Your age: 85
Today's date: 6/11/22

What year did you move to Southwest Florida, and where were you living previously?
1982 moved to SWFL from Orlando, FL (born and raised there)

What is your educational background and work experience?
Graduated Pahokee High School 1955. Graduated LUTC I AND II. Insurance. Painting Contractor.

Describe your community and School District activities. How will those experiences benefit you as a School Board member?
Prison ministries for 16 years taught me how to deal with individuals who are in economically distressed backgrounds that presently afflicts (stat in school). SERVED STATE TEXTBOOK COMMITTEE 2005-2006. Speaking and advocating over 35+ years at 300+ school board meetings to advocate for the children in the Collier County School District.

Describe a recent initiative on which you showed community leadership.
Examining the text books, discrepancies were found. Though they were subtle, the inaccuracy was misleading and misconstrued historical representation which distorted the truth to our most impressionable, the children.

What changes, if any, would you like to make to the CCPS Policies?
The existing policy, charter schools need to be promoted - the children have access to school choice. Our charter schools have been leading outstanding results within the Collier County School District. The school district needs to look at declining federal monies and looking to our own community in creative ways to pick up for the funds so that we do not have to follow federal guidelines which are at large political within our district. Case in point the President asking the schools to allow boys in girls restrooms disobeying the Governor's orders. The president has threatened that if his tyrannical demand is not met, he will advance his initiatives of starving the country's children by taking away lunch from k-12 after he removed baby formula from infants with his dysfunctional short sighted policy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE.
Please email your responses to sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com
no later than June 3, 2022.

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

The changes to the existing budget I would like to see is finding a way to increase teacher pay so that they may afford their own housing without having to jump through the hoops for assistance. The 1.3 Billion Dollar budget is needed for scrutiny to be sure that we are decreasing debt, and utilizing resources appropriately. Many programs are bought and paid for without measuring if there is adequate return on investment.

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

The school board is seeking to provide a land contract type arrangement with the county to develop housing specifically for teachers and essential personnel. If the teachers are paid a livable wage, it is not necessary for elected officials to intervene on how/where they live as they can afford housing. At this time, our teachers were increased to \$47,000 per DeSantis in 2021, while the Collier County Average Median Income (AMI) is 98,000. The teachers are being paid well below 50% of what it costs to live in this area. Do we truly want to be in the business of regulating where our employees live or paying them for merit and allowing for their choice?

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

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

The School Board needed to wait on voting the text books in; instead they needed to seek books that had success track records which honored the American Culture in our classrooms.

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

For too long Parental Rights have been ignored. Agree with parents rights and charter schools. Incorporate the best parts of parents involvement with education to create balance and input from the parents. We have top ranking charter schools with long wait lists in our district that are managing fewer resources per student than the existing public school systems. I would like to explore how this is possible so that we can reallocate funding in the areas producing extraordinary results.

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