



Candidate Questionnaire - School Board Member
August 2024 Primary Election

Your name: **Stephanie Lucarelli**
Your email address: **votelucarelli@gmail.com**
Your phone number: **239-293-1781**
Your age: **50**
Today's date: **6/8/24**

What year did you move to Southwest Florida, and where were you living previously? **I moved to Naples in 2002 from Sea Bright, New Jersey**

Where did you go to high school, and if you received any post-secondary education, what degree(s) and from where? **I attended Middletown High School South, and then went on to Cook College, Rutgers University where I received a B.S. in Natural Resources Management with extra coursework in Science Education allowing me to test for and receive my NJ Science Teaching Certificate.**

Please summarize your work experience, including employers and dates.
National Park Service Ranger, Rocky Mountain National Park 5/97-10/97
Science Teacher, Fair Haven Public Schools 8/98-5/02
Guest Teacher, Collier County Public Schools 8/13-10/16
Collier County School Board Member 11/16-present

Describe your community and School District activities. How will those experiences benefit you as a School Board member?
I have been involved with the schools and the school district for the past 21 years as a volunteer on a variety of committees and PTOs, as well as an employee as a Guest Teacher and Board Member. These experiences has allowed me the opportunity to see first-hand how policies are created and enforced, how decisions are made, and how both effect our students and teachers. I have also been involved in a number of community and non-profit organizations allowing me to see how the success of our students is supported and encouraged. The community relies on the school district to produce citizens who are prepared to become conductive members of our society. These opportunities have helped me understand the needs of our students, teachers, and community. My experience has helped me balance the School Board's role in answering to the students, teachers, and community.

Describe a recent initiative on which you showed community leadership.

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no later than June 10, 2024.

A recent initiative where I played a pivotal role for the community was when the Education Foundation needed to hire a new Chief Operating Officer. I volunteered for the committee and was selected to be the Chair. As the Chair, I was responsible for coordinating the national search, organizing the timeline, ensuring that everyone was informed and all voices heard throughout the process.

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

As a Board we review our policies regularly, so at this time there is nothing outstanding I wish to change. However, I would like to update the Guardian job description (which was already Board approved) to include both full and part-time options.

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

Over the years, I have encouraged focusing on the NEEDS over WANTS and trimming burdensome programs, all of which has happened this year. I will continue to stress the same as well as staying focused on becoming debt free by 2026.

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

Dr. Ricciardelli has been an incredible superintendent. She has a clear understanding of the direction of the Board, the needs of our students and teachers, and the respect of her employees, which allows her the ability to get things done quickly.

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

I have advocated for the school district to partner with the county to use some of the land we both have, but won't need immediately, to create temporary or semi-permanent housing for our workforce, (school district teachers and staff, police, fire, nurses).

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

I 100% believe parents should and need to be encouraged to participate in the education of their children and serve as their child's first teacher. Therefore, parents should be an active partner with the schools in the direction of their child's education. I believe in school choice and charter schools are a choice for some parents. As such, it is important that the School District maintains positive working relationships with our Charter Schools to ensure our students are receiving the best education possible.

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