



**Candidate Questionnaire - School Board Member
August 2024 Primary Election**

Your name: **Erick Carter**
Your email address: **erick@erickcarter.com**
Your phone number: **239-777-2380**
Your age: **54**
Today's date: **6.9.24**

What year did you move to Southwest Florida, and where were you living previously?
Summerville, SC and moved to Collier in 1992

Where did you go to high school, and if you received any post-secondary education, what degree(s) and from where?
Summerville High School, LWTC 1996

Please summarize your work experience, including employers and dates.
Self-employed since 1992, salon owner since 1998

Describe your community and School District activities. How will those experiences benefit you as a School Board member?

Value Adjustment Board, Citizens Audit Committee, Head Start, former CCPS Chair, Board member of two condo associations one of which is a commercial condo, have worked with Pace, Collier Literacy, and several other non-profit, deep understanding of CCPS budget and how it differs from county budgets, entrepreneur.

Experience of being on the school board offers me a greater understanding of the job and budget. Several new members, despite their experience in business, have stated how different and complicated the budget is. The experience of working with two different superintendents greatly adds to my experience. Working with condo associations where you need to plan for future expense, helps when looking at 5-year projections.

Being a small business owner helps me understand the struggle of housing. It keeps me in touch with the community, especially in the salon setting where clients tend to speak freely.

Describe a recent initiative on which you showed community leadership.
Hiring of the current superintendent. Working on the boundary modifications for CCPS. Deciding to change the parameters that we first laid out to the district to

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now include traffic flow, in hopes of relieving the traffic tie-ups as much as possible. Changed CCPS mission statement and board priorities. Stronger focus on phonetics for students. Worked on Budget Audit committee which is 5 citizens and one board member(myself). Requested an RFQ for affordable work force housing for our teachers, staff, and hold a percentage for our first responders.

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

Allow students going into the armed services to represent their commitment by wearing a sash of the service they will be going into. Teaching pride for serving our country! It is something I requested from the previous administration. I am grateful that Mr. Moshier brought it up at a school board meeting. I would also add allowing JROTC to wear a sash as well, for those cadets that participated all four years, at the cadre's discretion.

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

Return on Investment on our programs, which will lead to priority base budgeting. This will ensure all programs are productive in the classroom. If they are not, we will cut them from the budget, thus priority base budgeting.

We need to continue to make teacher pay and retention a top priority. We most recently gave teachers an unprecedented 12.5% pay increase.

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

We have great leadership at CCPS which is why I voted to hire our current superintendent.

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

I was on the board that started looking at the 35 acres near Mantee Middle School for teacher housing and to use some of that housing for first responders. We should continue to pursue options that are a private/ government partnership. It should be at zero cost to the district. That happens with a land lease for 75-99 years. The district (taxpayers) will still own the land. Once the lease expires it should be in the agreement that the buildings will then become ownership of the district. This will set CCPS in 75-99 years from now in an extremely positive position.

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?

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Parents know what's best for their kids. Charter schools have had a positive impact on our community. I have always supported opening of new charter schools, while supportive of our current charter schools.

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