

1.) -I was spurred by a statement that a representative made at my neighborhood meeting a few months back...they said "...when I got here, we only had 20 failing schools—Now, we only have 13..." For me, one perceived challenged school is too many—the sense of compliancy about what our children and families deserve made me literally uneasy. As such, I decided to run because I wanted to be someone that stopped complaining about the state of our community and attempted to do something—and do it right with the capacity and genuine intention it takes to make something work well while applying my passion for children and education. While I am already an educator, and a public servant, I wanted to lend my capacity to my community as someone with advanced expertise in education by serving on the Board. What we're currently doing isn't working for our students and families and I want to help steer us in the right direction.

2.) I think my penchant for rectitude and persistence in wanting to do what's right is one of my greatest virtues. While I know that no one can be perfect, the penchant toward doing so with good intentions are especially important as applied to leadership, stewardship, and learning in any position—and, more, on a regular basis. I like to do what's right and in the best interest of those I serve—the students and families of the City of Birmingham.

3.) I do not currently attend a specific Church though I was raised Jehovah's Witness but broke from that Congregation during my Undergraduate years of College. I have attended New Pilgrim Church and Church of the Highlands in the past.

4.) I think faith, if folks are spiritual, will naturally help to guide in providing a sense of morality to anything one does. This will not change whether in office or not for me.

5.) I think given my current position as a Public Servant in Community Development, the fortification and sustainability of good relationships are the crux of any positive change and effectiveness in a City, State, or National government. Luckily, I have been thus far adept in establishing such relationships through common conceptions of what is good for the public overall—this establishment and understanding of common goals and visions instantly make for much better relationships, which is how I would ensure the City's success.

6.) I think this is a very poignant question—many people have missed the correlation between economic and community development/growth and education—if we cannot attract families or future families due to the state of the educational system of the municipality, we lose tax base or it will become stagnant in spite of our current, burgeoning growth. In order to begin to establish the City's educational system as one of the best, we need to work on first changing the perception of the school system—if children and teachers continue to be flooded with the concept that they are in a perceived "failing school", they have little incentive to work harder and strive for better. ‘

Additionally, I aim to make sure we are **Creating A Path for Success** for our children by introducing blanket programming that is communal and partnership-based. While some schools have skill- education and language programming, access needs to be equitable to achieve exceptional results. Access to technology beyond computers and Wi-Fi (ex:

Virtual 3D learning) is important in order for children to achieve a more globalized perspective. Also, kids need to learn from one another—social language integration via the classroom as a space that provides that is imperative in student engagement. Kids need to feel connected to the lessons they are being taught, and so curriculum also needs to be adapted to do this to keep them engaged. I want to work on **Repairing and Rebuilding Bridges** between students, stakeholders, leadership, and residents—a lot of trust has been breached and that needs to be repaired through a sense of transparency and a clear understanding of procedures in order to move forward together in changing this system for the better. Lastly, I want to **Support but also Challenge our Teachers**—we need to ensure that we both have the best, retain the best that we already have, and attract the best for our students. Hands Down.

7.) One of the greatest challenges we face is the perception of failure as well as attracting the best talent. Our assets lay in our resilient children, families, and those great teachers and administrators that do exist in our schools.

8.) I hope to achieve a sense of camaraderie early on and then getting to work on supporting our superintendent's efforts to change our schools for the better.

9.) We have had a series of Superintendents which has led to an inability for leadership in place to provide a clear vision for the system. Additionally, poor management regarding everything from teacher salaries to supplies for students and training for teachers. We've got to get these things right, and the Board has to understand and take seriously their as supporters, and less as anarchists.

10.) We need to provide appropriate intake measures to select the best and most qualified talent, and also continuously provide training opportunities for teachers already in place. There should be a rigorous survey and series of

11.) I think the decisions we make as Board Members should be based largely on the input of parents, stakeholders, and teachers. Anything that is otherwise better be something that can be very well explained as to why it is not in line with the needs of teachers, parents, and students.

12.) I have lived in the City of Birmingham for about 8 years now. While I have an enjoyable quality of life here, I think one thing that needs to be improved is the quality of the educational system, of course. Investments –monetarily and otherwise-- in education will breed more private sector investment in amenities we need overall to have a better quality of life for all.

13.) -I think that, for one, being an educator is always helpful when it comes to truly understanding the underpinnings of curriculum and program development in order to best produce positive outcomes and change in student engagement and performance. Additionally, as a Public Servant that works daily on developing and implementing progressive, effective and impactful neighborhood stabilization as well as revitalization programs through community engagement, I am acutely aware of how education plays

much more deftly into economic and community development concerns if not swiftly addressed---I know that, while the City has grown exponentially over the past 10 years and population loss has been staunched for now by strategic Public-Private intervention, the need to mitigate loss of families (tax base) and the need to attract them relies heavily, too, on our school system's performance in addition to changing its perception into a more positive one—the narrative needs to change and that starts with vision, leadership, and folks that have capacity as well as genuine desire to stand up for our children—current and future. I have experience at educational institutions, as well as national and international governmental agencies with a firm grasp on municipal procedures and, as such, relationship building, which will also help in my success as a member of the Board.

Additionally, I believe that we are not and cannot, by virtue of our various roles, only be mothers and parents—we all work to contribute to a thriving, diverse, society that spurs community and economic growth. As such, when I have children, I want this Educational System to be prepared to teach them on a global level, which is why I am preparing for them today by, if elected, humbly taking on the responsibility of providing a path for success for the 25,104 children already enrolled in our schools.

I think that while efforts have been successful in some areas as one-off approaches, I am more focused on effecting the entirety of the school system together as a team that is more positive and less reactionary—Board Members need to coalesce around one idea and strategy for all of our schools, which are all deserving of equal, quality programming and resources—a District by District, overly politicized board that does not support the Superintendent will result in a rut for our kids—this is representative of past and present leadership—I, along with some other great folks that are running, represent the future of how to look at things differently—While I am considered an “outsider” with a unique perspective by virtue of that, I want to be able to have this system expose children to that unique perspective and the opportunities that lay beyond what they have come to know.

We know what the past and present leadership has offered for our school system—let's look toward the future—I think we differ in this perspective slightly because I believe that we all have an equal say in the success in our children—each and every one of us.

14.) The success of our students is not getting enough attention. Period.