

NAME: Steve Knudsen
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: Board of Education, District 2



Why are you seeking your office?

I have lived in Gwinnett County for 20 years and my four children graduated from North Gwinnett High School. It is my desire that all children growing up in Gwinnett County continue to have the same access to educational excellence that mine had. If GCPS is to maintain its excellence it needs leaders who will do the right thing. I believe that I have the passion, commitment and longevity in the county to make hard decisions for the betterment of families who live here.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I would like to see the lines of the various school clusters become less important when citizens choose where to live within the county. Families who choose to live in Gwinnett County should be confident of excellent educational resources regardless of what neighborhood they live in. As every school cluster in Gwinnett County achieves a high level of excellence, families will have greater opportunity to make choices regarding community, culture, and convenience.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

Dan Seckinger, who is the current Board of Education member for District 2, endorses me. He is confident that I have the character and the ability to continue to lead GCPS towards the pursuit of excellence. Dan knows after serving for 24 years the importance of being passionate about quality public education. I wholeheartedly agree with him in this belief and I am committed to being a team player that cares deeply about families in Gwinnett County and desires exceptional educational opportunities for all its residents.

How can we improve school safety?

GCPS already does an excellent job in securing its schools. It is committed to safety for its students and has included additional funds for more resource officers moving forward. I believe the best way to keep our schools safe is to make sure that there is a visible and understood deterrent for anyone who might consider bringing harm to a GCPS school. I also believe we need to foster a less divisive culture where all involved feel valued and that pursuit belongs to everyone who is a part of GCPS.

(more)

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

I believe that one of the critical issues for educational success is parental involvement. The more parents are involved the better students perform. The Board of Education must seek to find ways to encourage parents to be involved and intentional in their children's education. It is not good enough to make sure that your child is at a quality school, but you must also make sure the child is invested in the outcome. To that end, I will seek to encourage a locally focused school system that seeks and welcomes parental involvement.

Please give a 100 word summary on your background:

I am a product of public education. I attended three different high schools due to my father's career in banking. I graduated with honors. The importance of education was instilled in me from a young age. My wife and I moved several times as we followed my career seeking "success." We moved to Gwinnett 20 years ago. My definition of "success" changed. The idea of raising our kids in Gwinnett took precedent over career decisions that would have moved us away from here. I have been married 32 years, raised four children, and now I seek to serve.