NAME: **Mary Kay Murphy**
PARTY: **Republican**
SEEKING: **School Board, District 3**

1.Why are you seeking your office?

I am seeking office to 1) Save Our Schools during and after the COVID-19 pandemic; 2) increase the number of School Resource Officers to keep our schools, students, and staff safe; 3) provide families with a choice between in-person and online learning; 4) support our teachers and their safety, income, and retirement, with no furloughs or layoffs; 5) build transparency and trust between our school system and our constituents; 6) provide stability to our employees, families, and students; and 7) value inclusion among our students, employees, and community.

2.What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I expect to accomplish the following if elected: 1) Save Our Schools through innovation, not change for change sake; 2) support our local AKS curriculum, not a national curriculum; 3) focus on inclusion of all students, not on only one group; 4) provide school choice for families, versus no choice; 5) protect in-person learning and online learning, not online only; 6) provide stable governance, not chaotic oversight; 7) protect the school system's AAA bond rating from Standard & Poor's and Moody's through fiscal conservatism, not reckless cuts; 8) and protect 96 School Resource Officers, not reduce or eliminate them.

3.What distinguishes your candidacy?

My record distinguishes my candidacy. I have served on the Gwinnett Board of Education for multiple terms and been elected five times as Chairman. I was a teacher for seven years in public schools in California and Georgia. I bring my experience in higher education to my leadership on the Gwinnett Board, including serving as a senior administrator at Morris Brown College, Morehouse School of Medicine for 17 years, Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, and Oglethorpe University, raising private funds for African American and other students, many the first in their families to attend college or medical school.

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

Continuity on the Gwinnett Board of Education is threated by hasty votes for rapid change. My campaign reminds us that Gwinnett County values continuity as being vital to good governance. Good government has helped Gwinnett benefit from high quality education. During my tenure, School Board continuity opened 79 new schools debt free; balanced budgets from $566 million to $2.46 billion; and closed the achievement gap for

Hispanic and African American students. Such achievements are threatened when voters focus only on political party; age; ethnic and racial background rather than on candidate's judgment, experience, and trust.

5. Suggest ways to jump-start the economy after COVID-19.

To jump-start the economy after COVID-19, I suggest: 1) protect our AAA bond rating to minimize the cost of any debt financing into which the system may be forced; 2) protect our reserve fund to insure that GCPS can pay its employees during unexpected decreases in tax revenues; 3) collaborate with the State to insure that the Teacher Retirement System remains solvent to protect GCPS retired teachers and certified personnel; and 4) increase efforts to the GCPS Foundation to secure private funds to address any shortfall in revenue.

6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background

I hold a Ph.D. in Education Administration from Georgia State University; M.Ed. in Education from Emory University; and B.A. in English and philosophy. My background includes raising more than $450 million in private funds while employed at Georgia Tech, University of Georgia, Oglethorpe University, Morris Brown College, and Morehouse School of Medicine. These senior leadership experiences provided me with judgment and knowledge to transform undergraduate, research, and medical education in the South. They helped me work to improve K-12 education so that no Gwinnett child is left behind or left out.