

**NAME: Matt Sones**  
**PARTY: Non-Partisan**  
**SEEKING: School Board, District 4**

**1. Why are you seeking your office?**

First and foremost, because I love Gwinnett County Public Schools. I love the spirit displayed at Football Games on Friday nights (and at early Saturday morning swim meets!), the amazing teachers, and the incredible diversity of the GCPS community. GCPS is a great school system but I am concerned that it is still struggling with the lingering effects of the pandemic. Currently, roughly half of Gwinnett Middle and High School students are not proficient in math or reading. This is something that needs to change and I think that I have the skills and experience to help make this happen.

**2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?**

Three things. First, there are massive gaps in how well different GCPS schools are preparing our children. For example, in one GCPS high school the math proficiency is 74% while the reading proficiency is 86%. In another high school, those numbers fall to 26% and 38%. My first goal is to address the performance gaps that exist within Gwinnett Public Schools. Second, I will prioritize efforts to strengthen and expand the teacher pipeline and promote efforts to recruit and retain the best teachers possible. Finally, I would like to expand language immersion programs to include Mandarin, Hindi, and Arabic.

**3. What distinguishes your candidacy?**

The fact that I am a complete political novice driven solely by the desire to make Gwinnett County Public Schools better. I'm doing this out of love for GCPS and its amazing teachers and students. I have no political aspirations beyond this. And, when I have helped Gwinnett County Schools achieve the goals I have set, I will move on from the school board. My desire is to serve the students, the teachers, and the families and to make Gwinnett schools the best they can be. I have no desire to become a "career politician".

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

I am concerned about the fact that roughly half of Gwinnett high school and middle school students are not proficient in math or reading. I think we need to take a very serious look at both the math and reading curriculum offered in Gwinnett County schools and determine if the curriculum itself is the reason that so many children are not proficient in these areas.

**5. What are your ideas on curbing all the many area-wide shooting?**

I am not an expert on law enforcement or crime prevention but I think that Atlanta Mayor Dickens has a very interesting idea with the proposed creation of a new "Nightlife Division" to

focus on establishments with a history of high crime. Time will tell if this approach is effective but it's certainly an interesting idea.

**6. Please give a 100 word summary on your background.**

I have over 20 years of program management and evaluation experience that I can use to help improve GCPS. I have experience at managing and improving multi-million dollar public health programs and I also have decades of experience engaging communities impacted by environmental hazards and helping them address those needs. I also have a PhD in communication which has given me very strong analytical skills that will enable me to quickly and effectively identify systemic problems and create data-driven solutions for the problems facing GCPS.