

NAME: Kelly Kautz
PARTY: Non-Partisan
SEEKING: School Board, District 4

1. Why are you seeking your office?

I want to serve on the School Board for District 4, because I am passionate about our children, schools and community. As a mother of a 1st grader, I am concerned with the direction of our school system and want to assure we continue to offer a first-class education for ALL students. I want to be a voice for students, teachers and above-all parents. I am seeking this office because I want to return to the basics of education. I am seeking this office, because I believe that I am the best candidate because I am Invested, Experienced and Involved.

2. What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I hope to bring experience and stability to our board. I want to put an end to blanket, one size fits all policies. Our school system is too diverse for that way of thinking. We must use common sense and return to the basics of education. I want to acknowledge that college is not the right option for every student and restore vocational education in local schools. I want to improve our special education services and streamline the IEP process. I want to be a voice for not just our children, but also parents and the teachers.

3. What distinguishes your candidacy?

My experience. Serving on the school board is about more than education. It is a function of government. As the former Mayor of Snellville, I am the only candidate that has government experience. I have drafted a budget for the 3rd largest city in Gwinnett. I have determined millage rates. I have run open, governmental meetings and drafted government policies. As an attorney in Georgia for 20 years, I am also experienced working with GCPS. I have represented teachers in licensing and contract disputes, bus drivers in workers' compensation claims, and students and parents in the IEP and disciplinary processes.

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

GCPS does many things well, however, there are many areas that can be improved such as increased vocational programs at local schools, streamlining the IEP/504 process and restoring foreign language classes to ES. However, I don't think that we can tackle these issues until we have highly qualified teachers in place to work with our children. So we must address the mass exodus of teachers that is occurring. To do this we must provide pay incentives, not just for new teachers, but also veterans and improve the atmosphere/working environment for teachers.

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

Unfortunately, I believe that this issue comes down to a lack of respect for life. And this is a problem that must first be addressed in our homes- by parents, family members and religious leaders.

The safety of our children is and has always been one of the utmost importance. I support SROs in our schools to assure the protection of our children, but believe that there should also be additional counselors.

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

I'm a graduate of Brookwood, the daughter of a retired GCPS teacher, the mother of a Gwin Oaks' first-grader and a former substitute teacher.

I attended UGA. I've been a practicing Georgia attorney for 20 years. I work in Gwinnett Juvenile Court where I determine what is in the best interest of children.

I was the first female Mayor of Snellville. I've spent my entire life working for the betterment of our community. I serve as VP of PTSA, team mom for Brookwood Baseball and teach catechism at SJN. I volunteer for STRAP, Overcomer's and LettumEat!. For more visit www.votekautz.com