

Questionnaire for School Board Candidates,
General Election, November 5, 2024
(Voters may vote for 4)

Questions	Sandy Ellington-Graves	Tameka Harvey	Peter Morcombe	Tara Raggett	Seneca Rogers	Corrie Shepherd	Avery Wagoner	Donna Davis Westbrooks
Curriculum/Academics/Student & School Performance 1. Rank in order of relative importance the following goals for the school system. a. increasing student test scores on the SAT and other standardized tests b. acquiring computers and other technology for use in student instruction c. bolstering student skills in traditional areas such as reading and writing ability d. expanding curriculum to include more offerings along the lines of music, dance, and foreign language e. providing special instruction for gifted students and for students with learning disabilities. 1. ____ 2. ____ 3. ____ 4. ____ 5. ____ 2. Is the ABSS academic curriculum generally adequate? 2a. What academic area(s), if any, do you think needs the most improvement within the Alamance-Burlington schools? [25 word limit]	1. 1.c. 2. b. 3. e. 4. d. 5. a.	1. 1. c. 2. d. 3. b. 4. e. 5. a.	1. 1. a. 2. c. 3. d. 4. 3. 5. b.	1. Refused to respond. 2. Refused to respond. 2a. Refused to respond.	1. 1. c. 2. e. 3. a. 4. d. 5. b.	1. 1. c. 2. e. 3. a. 4. d. 5. b.	1. 1. c. 2. a. 3. b. 4. e. 5. d.	1. 1. c. 2. b. 3. e. 4. d. 5. a.
3. School performance throughout the school system, as measured by state standards, has declined, particularly following the Covid-19 shutdown from March 2020 until March 2021, with nearly half of ABSS schools receiving D or F performance grades from the state's Department of Public Instruction (DPI) and only one getting an A during the 2023-2024 school year. What, in your view, should be done to improve academic performance? [50 word limit]	2. Yes. 2a. English Language Arts and Math. ABSS reflected growth and focusing on these areas will result in continued improvement to meet or exceed state proficiency levels. 3. Last year, ABSS implemented a new math curriculum, added tutors in elementary schools, consistently reviewed student data, and supported grade level collaboration to improve outcomes. As a result, ABSS had 26 schools meet or exceed growth while two schools were removed from low-performing status. This important work must continue.	2. Yes. 2a. We could always find ways to improve in math and reading. 3. Inconsistent school attendance must be addressed in order to improve scores. Strong community relations between ABSS and the community must also be established. Students should be aware of all educational offerings and must be encouraged at home, in the community and at school, to explore interests and to develop aspirations.	2. No. 2a. Reading proficiency is low. Need more teachers trained in SBRR (Science Based Reading Research). 3. Academic performance and school discipline would improve if the ABSS schools were run like charter schools with most decisions being made at site level. This empowers staff and parents to be more creative.	2. Refused to respond. 2a. Refused to respond. 3. Refused to respond.	2. Yes. 2a. ABSS follows state standards. ABSS should continue to expand our Career and Technical Education, financial literacy, early reading and writing offerings. 3. Following the pandemic, we must reinforce the fundamentals by providing teachers resources they need to improve students' academic growth and performance such as our Achieve 3000 programs and more tutors. To improve academic performance, we must also address emotional and mental health of students and staff like mentorship programs and support services.	2. No. 2a. My biggest concerns involve reading, lack of knowledge and writing skills. I want to see a curriculum that exposes kids to reading a variety of topics. 3. I honestly believe that students are scoring lower because of a poor curriculum and they are struggling to connect dots due to a lack of critical thinking skills. They aren't seeing connections and building their skills as they move along in a curriculum being taught.	2. Yes. 2a. I would like to see us to continue to improve test scores as well the overall performance of the district. 3. Although there have been some improvements, we still have a long way to go. Need to continue to support our teachers and provide staff where needed. Provide programming and resources in underperforming areas.	2. Yes. 2a. There is always room for improvement. Math, English, and Science are the most tested, so one could conclude those areas need the most improvement. 3. Transforming school culture through positive behavioral interventions and support while implementing effective academic strategies will have a positive influence on teaching and learning. This can only influence and improve academic performance.
3a. Indeed, almost half (16) were labeled by DPI as "continually low-performing," which was defined as having been "low-performing" for at least two of the past three years, according to DPI. That would appear to be a serious indictment of the status of ABSS education. Are the superintendent and other school officials focused on the right priorities for improving ABSS schools and academic performance by its students? [25 word limit]	3a. Yes. Dr. Fleming's commitment to prioritize academic data, instructional resources, literacy programs, and input from educators will support continued improvement and student success.	3a. Continually low-performing scores suggest a change of course is needed. Priorities must be re-evaluated, and efforts must be re-assessed.	3a. The main topic at ABSS board meetings is how to get more money. I can't remember even one serious attempt to improve academic performance.	3a. Refused to respond.	3a. Our district staff are focused on the right priorities. Schools who were identified as continually low performing by are showing improved growth through the same metrics.	3a. They are not focused on right priorities; it seems they are hyper focused on money as being the only way that things can improve.	3a. In my opinion yes. With the new leadership now in place, I believe we are heading in the right direction.	3a. Yes, such as creating a safe and orderly environment, establishing meaningful relationships, providing a rigorous curriculum, setting high expectations, and implementing appropriate assessments to measure learning. 4. Yes.
4. Do you believe that students of all races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds can meet academic performance targets set by the state? 4a. If no, please explain why not. [25 word limit]	4. Yes. 4a. N.A. If no, please explain why not. [25 word limit] n/a	4. Yes. 4a. N.A.	4. Yes. 4a. N.A.	4. Refused to respond. 4a. Refused to respond.	4. Yes. 4a. N.A.	4. Yes. 4a. N.A.	4. No. 4a. Some parts of society are struggling. Language barriers, homes with difficult circumstances, etc. We need to work with state officials in assisting these groups.	4. Yes. 4a. All things are possible if we serve our children fairly and consistently while building meaningful relationships.
5. There are various "socially-conscious" curriculums being circulated among school systems nationally and proposed for some North Carolina school systems. These include "The 1619 Project," as well as the "Black Lives Matter Year of Purpose" and what some observers have termed Critical Race Theory. Would you support or oppose the use of these kinds of materials and activities, if proposed for ABSS? 5a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	5. Oppose. 5a. It is important for ABSS educators to teach the K-12 curriculum approved by our state leaders.	5. No response.	5. Oppose.	5. Refused to respond.	5. No response.	5. Oppose.	5. Oppose.	5. No response.
6. Which do you believe should be a higher priority for the school system: new curriculums, such as those noted above, or a focus on the fundamentals of academic achievement? 7. Do you feel it is appropriate or inappropriate to provide sexually-explicit books in ABSS school libraries or to incorporate them into classroom instruction? 7a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	6. Fundamentals. 7. Inappropriate. 7a. ABSS libraries should focus on literature that is appropriate for school-aged children. Sexually-explicit books, if desired, can be accessed at public libraries and bookstores.	6. Fundamentals. 7. No response. 7a. No response.	6. Fundamentals 7. Inappropriate 7a. Every "Inappropriate" book displaces a more valuable book.	6. Refused to respond. 7. Refused to respond.	6. Fundamentals. 7. No response. 7a. ABSS's policies have proven effective in maintaining developmentally appropriate book offerings and curriculum.	6. Fundamentals. 7. Inappropriate. 7a. Sexually explicit books don't belong in school; they hold no educational value. It is a parent's job to teach kids what they deem appropriate about sexual issues.	6. Fundamentals. 7. Inappropriate. 7a. We need to worry about preparing students for graduation and help them be successful in whatever career they chose.	6. Fundamentals. 7. No response. 7a. North Carolina has developed sex education standards that allow parents to opt out their children or give written permission to participate.
Funding/Facilities 8. Do you feel that the annual level of funding that the county provides for ABSS is adequate? 8a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	8. Yes and No. 8a. The county provides op-	8. No. 8a. The county must allocate suf-	8. Yes 8a. Last year the ABSS spent \$310	8. Refused to respond. 8a. Refused to respond.	8. No. 8a. Our funding needs in Ala-	8. Yes. 8a. It is adequate until ABSS can	8. Yes. 8a. However, we need to be able to	8. No. 8a. The county is limited to what they

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	erational funding that aligns closely with what is requested from ABSS. Unfortunately, this does not typically align with current needs.	ficient funding for ABSS to survive. If the County truly prioritized the students, there should be no issue.	million to “Educate” 21,932 students (\$14,136 per student).		mance County can only be realized when state and local government are fully invested in our public education.	show they can properly manage funds, answer questions about how funds are used, prepare/follow maintenance schedules, and follow a budget.	have ability to ask and justify as needed. Give new leadership time to understand who we are as a school system.	allot ABSS. More needs to come from the state. There will just never be enough!
8b. If not adequate, are you willing to advocate that the property tax rate be raised in order to provide additional funding?	8b. No.	8b. Yes.	8b. No	8b. Refused to respond.	8b. Yes.	8b.	8b. No.	8b. Yes.
9. In your view, what are the greatest funding needs that you believe ABSS has? [25 word limit]	9. Facilities and teacher pay.	9. Facility improvements, teacher recruitment, and retention.	9. We need to re-train more teachers to use Science Based Reading Research.	9. Refused to respond.	9. Competitive teachers' salaries; support services (support staff, guidance counselors, etc.); facility maintenance and upgrades; critical resources for student performance.	9. I believe the greatest funding needs are teachers and staff that are actually serving students on a daily basis.	9. Give new leadership time to understand who and where we are as a county. Compensation, maintenance, and facilities will always be priorities.	9. We need people. We need enough teachers, enough counselors, enough nurses, enough everything in regards to people, and we need to keep them!!
10. Funding for ABSS accounts for nearly 30 percent of Alamance County's total annual budget; and county funding is the only area of funding for ABSS over which the school board has any direct say. What percentage of the total annual county budget should be allocated to ABSS, in your view?	10. 77%	10. 50%.	10. 25%	10. Refused to respond.	10. No response.	10. 30%.	10. 30%.	10. No response.
10a. Why? [25 word limit]	10a. Local dollars fund additional positions for teaching, leadership and safety in our schools. These needs change year after year and are unlikely to be static.	10a. The funding is needed for a multitude of things but most of all to ensure that our schools have the necessary resources that's needed.	10a. Regular schools get more than charters. Either give charters more or ABSS less to make things fairer.	10a. Refused to respond.	10a. The school system, county and state officials need work together to make sure we fully fund the needs of our schools.	10a. ABSS and Commissioners need to learn to work together before any raise or lowering should be discussed.	10a. I would not propose an increase. We have to be good stewards of our taxpayers money. Spend when justified in order to support students.	10a. I can't put a percentage on it because as previously stated, there will never be enough. That is not the county's fault, it's just reality.
11. Yet while spending for ABSS has increased, enrollment in ABSS schools has declined by about 635 students, or almost 3 percent, over the past five years (from 22,851 in 2019-20 to 22,216 students in 2023-24), even though the county's population has increased. Why should county spending continue to increase when the number of students served is declining? [25 word limit]	11. Many of our expenses are not driven by actual student counts such as the rising costs in maintenance, repairs and utility costs.	11. We should always be looking at long-term instead of short-term. We know that demographics can change quickly and it's best to be prepared.	11. County funding shouldn't continue to increase when enrollment in ABSS is declining.	11. Refused to respond.	11. ABSS accepts students of all backgrounds, the quality of our public education should be a top factor when allocating funding.	11. I don't believe that it should continue to increase. I will say that inflation has had an impact on everyone including ABSS.	11. Part of the spending is catching up on projects but we must be good stewards of our taxpayers money and justify each dollar spent.	11. ABSS needs programs, resources, teacher supplements, support staff, and I could go on, regardless of the number of students. Our children deserve it!
12. Many residents question the growing expenditures for ABSS when there appears to be little to no correlation between more spending with improved academic performance [i.e., DPI's evaluation of ABSS schools (see questions 3 and 3A)]. Should there be a correlation between funding and performance, and what kinds of incentives can or should be built in to tie county funding with improvements in academic achievement? [50 word limit]	12. Growing expenditures in both operations and capital funding are necessary to maintain safe and healthy schools which directly impact student learning. We must also work to increase our local supplement to be more competitive in teacher recruitment and retention. Until we close funding gaps, conversations about incentives would be premature.	12. No response.	12. There's plenty of research to show money does not guarantee results – and ABSS isn't short of money, approximately \$14,000 per pupil per year. Retain teachers; make the working environment safer for teachers; and reduce paperwork.	12. Refused to respond.	12. Our growing expenditures for ABSS are in part related to maintenance challenges of the past two years and growing technology needs of the 21 st century learners. The county can best support ABSS by proactively maintaining school buildings while supporting ABSS efforts in improving student performance.	12. The county is responsible for funding the buildings that belong to ABSS and they should uphold that responsibility regardless of performance. We can't simply let buildings crumble due to low performance and that certainly wouldn't improve academic performance.	12. I am not in favor of the correlation of performance vs funding for Alamance County. We need to concentrate on educating all of Alamance. Apply extra resources when needed.	12. We have an obligation to teach our students regardless of the amount of money provided. I do not believe one test should measure the year-long knowledge and ability a student. It is unfair. I feel if a student is properly motivated and has set academic goals, reaching them would suffice.
13. Alamance County voters approved a \$150 million bond package for ABSS in November 2018; half of the eight projects it financed will fund are for renovations and construction to increase capacity at the high school level. Do you anticipate the need for another bond referendum for repairs and expansions at other grade levels during your term?	13. Yes.	13. Yes.	13. No.	13. Refused to respond.	13. Yes.	13. No.	13. No.	13. Yes.
13a. If you answered yes, please identify where you see the greatest needs and why. [50 word limit.]	13a. At present, six elementary schools, three middle schools, and four high schools are nearing capacity. An assessment of current school capacity, attendance zones, and projected growth is warranted. Following last year's mold crisis, time is of the essence with funding last year's \$26M+ mold crisis.	13a. Our current educational facilities are still facing overcrowding issues. This impacts the quality of education for our children. At some point we need to address that a new elementary and middle school is needed in the future.	13a. There should be no more bonds because enrollment has fallen. Why should we need more bonds? Charter schools have built and expanded without bonds. Maybe look at what they are doing that could save taxpayers millions.	13a. Refused to respond.	13a. No response.	13a. N.A.	13a. As long as we are caught up on all maintenance projects, we should be fine over the next 4 years.	13a. Maintaining current facilities is a priority, but I believe it is inevitable that we will need more schools of all grade levels due to the growth of our county. I think a larger central office equipped with professional development areas, more technology, and more conducive work spaces is also needed.
School Safety 14. The issue of school safety has many dimensions. What, if any, ideas do you have to improve school safety for ABSS? [25 word limit]	14. Maintain SROs at every school, expedite HVAC & roofing projects for healthy learning environments, alignment of mental health support for students, student disciplinary accountability.	14. In my opinion, ABSS needs metal detectors! It might be far fetched to some, but it's about keeping our students safe.	14. Put more responsibility to site level. You can't impose discipline from Vaughn Road. You need principals to provide the leadership.	14. Refused to respond.	14. A school safety task force, which includes teachers, administration, law enforcement, counselors, social workers, mental health professionals, etc, could be created to develop individual school safety plans.	14. I am thankful to live in a county that values the importance of SRO's and I believe they are our greatest deterrent.	14. Ensure facilities are up to date regarding security. Continuous training for students and staff.	14. Upgrade/maintain facilities; conduct safety drills; provide SRO's and support personnel in all schools and athletic trainers in all high schools; develop/implement alternative discipline plans.
14a. Specifically, would you support or oppose allowing teachers to be armed?	14a. Oppose (concerns about safety & training).	14a. Oppose.	14a. Support.	14a. Refused to respond.	14a. Oppose.	14a. Support.	14a. Oppose.	14a. Oppose.
14b. Some areas have discussed the idea of allowing armed volunteers (with proper gun-safety training) to patrol on local school campuses. Would you support or oppose that concept?	14b. Oppose.	14b. Oppose.	14b. Support.	14b. Refused to respond.	14b. Oppose.	14b. Support. With proper training.	14b. Oppose.	14b. Oppose.
14c. In the past, some public speakers at school board meetings and others have called on school board members to defund the School Resource Officers (SROs) who work in ABSS schools – similar to calls to defund the police – and to redirect funding for SROs to other priorities. Should ABSS reduce, eliminate, maintain, or increase the number of schools with SROs?	14c. Maintain.	14c. Maintain.	14c. Maintain.	14c. Refused to respond.	14c. Maintain.	14c. Maintain.	14c. Maintain.	14c. Maintain.

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14d. Why? [25 word limit]	14d. The collaboration in 2022 with ABSS and commissioners to increase annual funding for a SRO in every school prioritized an important layer of school safety.	14d. We don't need more SROs, but it's crucial to maintain the current presence for the safety of our kids.	14d. I would rather we not need them, but in this day and age it is obvious we do.	14d. Refused to respond.	14d. We currently have an SRO in every school.	14d. No response.	14d. Safety of students and staff is the highest priority. We must provide them with safe and nurturing environment to learn in.	14d. SRO's give a safety presence to our children and staff while making sure the grounds and school are safe from outside interferences.
14e. If you support a reduction in the number of SROs, or their elimination altogether, how would you suggest the school system ensure a safe climate on school campuses? [50 word limit]	14e. N.A.	14e. N.A.	14e. N.A.	14e. Refused to respond.	14e. N.A.	14e. N.A.	14e. N.A.	14e. N.A.
Policy 15. In general do you support or oppose the concept of allowing additional public charter schools to be developed and started in Alamance County?	15. Support.	15. Oppose.	15. Support.	15. Refused to respond.	15. Oppose.	15. Support.	15. Oppose.	15. Oppose.
15a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	15a. I choose to advocate for public education yet recognize charter schools are important for 1,300+ students in our county.	15a. I don't support the idea of more charter schools being built in Alamance County, it takes money away from our public schools!	15a. It will save taxpayer money and we'll have better performance and discipline. What's not to like about that?	15a. Refused to respond.	15a. I believe we need to fully meet the needs of our public school system before expanding with additional charter schools.	15a. I am a big proponent for school choice, and I believe the more choices that families have the better.	15a. We need to use what our taxpayers have mostly already paid for. It is the objective of this board to support our public schools.	15a. Public schools accept all students while charter schools are selective. They also tend to be more racially segregated and often do not serve special needs students.
16. Do you support or oppose the concept of "opportunity scholarships," a form of "vouchers," that have been funded by the General Assembly in order to provide "school choice" for North Carolina families.	16. Oppose.	16. Oppose.	16. Support.	16. Refused to respond.	16. Oppose.	16. Support.	16. Oppose.	16. Oppose.
16a. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	16a. I support school choice and opportunity scholarships for low-income families. I oppose potentially redirecting funding from public schools totaling \$463M for other income levels.	16a. The vouchers continue to take money away from our public schools.	16a. We are saving money on the cost to educate a child.	16a. Refused to respond.	16a. Before giving money to private schools, our state government need to meet our own state constitution requirement, to fully fund public schools.	16a. Not only do I support "opportunity scholarships," I worked very hard to help get them passed.	16a. If it is a matter of safety or learning opportunities then I can see the need for a transfer but on a case by case basis.	16a. Everyone can have a free public education. I believe parents should pay if they choose a different venue of education.
17. The UNC Board of Governors has eliminated offices of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) within UNC's public universities. What is your view on whether similar DEI programs, officials, or philosophy are appropriate for ABSS? [50 word limit]	17. While a diverse workforce is valuable when serving a diverse student body, ABSS hiring practices and retention efforts should always reflect general inclusion and engagement seeking the most talented educators regardless of race, gender, or bias. This focus encourages equal opportunity and non-discrimination across the district in all aspects.	17. No response.	17. Absolutely inappropriate: DEI drives out merit. Merit should matter and skin color shouldn't be a determining factor whether someone gets a job.	17. Refused to respond.	17. ABSS follows the North Carolina State Board of Education standards for curriculum, and we need to continue to follow what is set forth by the state.	17. DEI programs are going away because they have been detrimental in many ways. Equality and merit should always be the standard for hiring and philosophy and that example should be exhibited in ABSS.	17. I am not in favor of a DEI program. We must treat one another with respect and dignity with the ultimate goal of giving our children a quality education regardless of sex, economic status, etc.	17. I believe they can be effective if planned and implemented carefully. I would want all children to feel valued because they should be. I would definitely want to learn more about it first.
18. There has been some discussion and debate about whether providing greater "socioeconomic" balance at various schools is an appropriate purpose for redistricting or school assignment. In your judgment, is achieving socioeconomic balance an appropriate purpose for redistricting or school assignment?	18. No.	18. No response.	18. No.	18. Refused to respond.	18. Yes.	18. Yes.	18. No.	18. No response.
18a. Why or why not? [50 word limit]	18a. Redistricting is one of the most challenging tasks for the school board creating both anxiety and frustration for the student and family. ABSS must position every school in every community to be a desired choice in education with equal access to programs, tools, and resources regardless of socioeconomic balance.	18a. No response.	18a. We should give the parent control over where the student should go, not a bureaucrat. We should do away with districting altogether. I'm for school choice, parents, students, and teachers.	18a. Refused to respond.	18a. The Federal Supreme Court ruled on this issue and allows socioeconomic balance to be a reason for redistricting.	18a. I answered yes, because it is appropriate if it makes sense. It is not appropriate to bus children all over the county to bring balance, especially regarding race. It makes more sense to improve the schools in lower socioeconomic areas. These schools particularly have been neglected and ignored for decades.	18a. Many parents choose to live somewhere because of the schools. And we should not take that away from them.	18a. I believe that we should have the desire to improve educational equity and achievement through whatever realistic means necessary.
18b. In practice, is "socioeconomic" balance a substitute for trying to achieve racially-based assignments and/or "racial balance" at certain schools?	18b. No.	18b. Yes.	18b. Yes. It's social engineering. It's not something schools should be engaged in.	18b. Refused to respond.	18b. No response.	18b. Yes.	18b. Yes.	18b. Not necessarily.
19. How significant is the issue of maintaining classroom discipline – both as a potential factor in retaining teachers and in establishing an academic climate where students can learn? [25 word limit]	19. Very significant. Almost 37% of ABSS teachers are reported that the majority of students do not follow the student code of conduct.	19. A classroom with frequent issues can be a very chaotic environment that disrupts learning from others.	19. Important.	19. Refused to respond.	19. I support the continued training with the teachers and school staff on classroom discipline. We must make sure our schools are safe for teachers and students.	19. Maintaining classroom discipline is essential to success for our students and staff. You cannot learn or work if you do not feel safe.	19. It is paramount. Our teachers and staff must be supported in maintaining a safe, positive learning environment.	19. The key to any "successful" teacher is developing positive relationships with their students. Setting expectations and establishing a positive environment will assist in teacher retention.
20. Graham's city council has asked the school board to consider selling the undeveloped portion of land next to the Ray Street Academy in Graham that is owned by the school system. Would you support or oppose such a sale?	20. Depends; happy to explore an opportunity if mutually beneficial to ABSS & city of Graham.	20. Oppose.	20. No opinion – need more information.	20. Refused to respond.	20. Support.	20. Support.	20. Support.	20. Oppose.
21. Should the school system encourage, discourage, or remain neutral in terms of residential growth in various jurisdictions where students would feed into ABSS attendance zones?	21. Remain neutral.	21. Encourage.	21. Remain neutral.	21. Refused to respond.	21. Remain neutral.	21. Discourage.	21. Neutral.	21. Remain neutral.
School Board 22. Name the issue(s) on which you've most disagreed with the school board majority in the past few years, and briefly outline your reasons why. [50 word limit]	22. Covid-19 is likely the most debated issue during my time on the school board. Opening schools, masking and	22. The redistricting that was carried out by ABSS raised concerns due to its perceived lack of consideration for	22. The lack of transparency: we can never find out who was responsible for the mold. We need to have facilities experts to	22. Refused to respond.	22. No response.	22. 1. Adopting radical Title IX Policy that did not need to be passed. 2. Implementing Telehealth in	22. The mold was a problem. The "visuals" and public perceptions were not good. We need to continuously work on	22. Although I was the only one to publicly vote against the new superintendent due to the fact he never held the

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	quarantine protocols brought much discussion, differing opinions, and split votes. Most challenging was the documentation from respected medical professionals and organizations to support BOTH sides of the debate!	the impact on students and parents. It seemed that the focus was primarily on establishing a new school rather than prioritizing the well-being of the children and their families affected by the changes.	run facilities and appropriate expertise – not doctors of education (wrong skill set).			Hillcrest Elementary; this is just another service that has nothing to do with education. 3. Trusting everything Dr. Butler told them to do, including giving himself a raise.	how we are viewed within the community and ensuring we are being good stewards of the funds provided to us. We also need to remain as transparent as possible. Any meeting behind closed doors will always be scrutinized.	position of principal, I have stated I will fully support him in this role. Serving on the board requires honest communication and respect in order to work collaboratively.
23. Would you support or oppose state legislation to grant local school boards the authority to levy property taxes, independent from the board of commissioners?	23. Oppose.	23. Neither.	23. Oppose.	23. Refused to respond.	23. Oppose.	23. Oppose.	23. Oppose.	23. Oppose.
24. The current salary, or stipend, for school board members is \$300 per month. Is this adequate for school board service?	24. Yes. (I waived my stipend in 2020 when I joined the BOE.)	24. No.	24. Yes. Would do it for nothing.	24. Refused to respond.	24. Yes.	24. Yes.	24. Yes.	24. Yes.
24a. Would you vote to raise school board pay during your term on the school board?	24a. No.	24a. Yes.	24a. No.	24a. Refused to respond.	24a. No.	24a. No.	24a. No.	24a. No.
24b. If yes, to what level?	24b. N.A.	24b. A livable wage.	24b. N.A.	24b. Refused to respond.	24b. N.A.	24b. N.A.	24b. N.A.	24b. N.A.
25. Have you been endorsed by the Democratic or Republican Party in this election?	25. No.	25. Yes.	25. Yes.	25. Refused to respond.	25. Yes.	25. Yes.	25. Yes.	25. No.
25a. If so, which party?	25a. N.A.	25a. Democratic.	25a. Republican.	25a. Refused to respond.	25a. Democratic.	25a. Republican.	25a. Republican.	25a.
25b. About one-third of school boards in North Carolina are elected on a partisan basis. Alamance-Burlington school board seats are still on at least an ostensibly non-partisan basis. Would you support or oppose legislation to convert the ABSS board to a partisan board?	25b. Oppose.	25b. Oppose.	25b. Support.	25b. Refused to respond.	25b. Oppose.	25b. Support.	25b. Support.	25b. Oppose.
25c. Why or why not? [25 word limit]	25c. School board leadership is most effective when decisions are focused on the best interest of students, educators and community rather than political motivation or influence.	25c. The focus should always remain on education and not politics!	25c. It is a partisan election even if it pretends not to be; would make it more transparent.	25c. Refused to respond.	25c. Politics and political parties already play too much of a role at higher levels of government with our schools and it should not be at our school board level.	25c. Being a nonpartisan race does not keep politics out of school board races, especially in the current political climate.	25c. We are in essence already at that stage.	25c. The school board oversees the education of children, who are non-partisan members of a classroom. The school board should be as well.
General								
26. What can be done to improve the rapport between the school board and the county's commissioners? [25 word limit]	26. A shared commitment to work together with mutual respect and collaboration – at all times. Quarterly joint meetings instead of annual or at time of crisis.	26. County commissioners and the school board must be willing to put differences aside and focus on the bigger picture at hand, and that's our students.	26. I think the school board could comport itself better. You don't bite the hand that feeds you.	26. Refused to respond.	26. Commissioners and school board members attending more school functions or visiting schools more often together while respecting quorum logistics.	26. Being able to explain what is needed, how much it will cost and then using the money for the reason requested should solve the current issues.	26. First, we need to listen to one another and understand we all want what is best for Alamance County. Have open, honest and productive conversations.	26. Both boards need to have open and honest communication and realize that the common goal is to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children.
27. In your view, what are the three main issues facing the school system during the next 5 years? [50 word limit]	27. Facilities (maintenance AND capacity issues), educator workforce funding.	27. Adequate funding from the state along with the local funding; teacher pay; teacher retention.	27. Eliminate/improve D and F schools and academic performance overall; Improve school safety/discipline so teachers aren't quitting because they're afraid; more parental engagement is critical	27. Refused to respond.	27. Strengthen academic/student performance; Safety of our schools; Retention/Recruitment of a qualified staff.	27. Accommodating growth. bloated administrative cost. Misplaced focus on social/political issues over academics.	27. Appropriate funding. This will always be a priority. Academic performance. We need to continue in ensuring we are moving forward. Recruitment and retention of highly qualified staff.	27. I believe 3 main issues include: (1) financial issues, pertaining to teacher supplement and support staff (2) teacher retention and recruitment, especially in regards to diversity (3) maintaining/upgrading facilities, a never ending job.
28. Why are you running for school board? [25 word limit]	28. I believe strong schools build strong communities that will benefit families, businesses and the community. Public education matters and the work is important.	28. I want to be a voice in our community for our children, parents, and teachers.	28. To make schools better and to stop wasting money on unnecessary things (should have kept up preventative maintenance to prevent mold). Let teachers teach.	28. Refused to respond.	28. I am running to create multiple pathways to students' success and to be a strong advocate for our community through public education.	28. I became increasingly frustrated watching school board meetings without hearing the questions that I had, being asked by board members.	28. I want to be able to use my experience in the business world and volunteerism in helping our community to be an attractive place to live, work and play.	28. I am an advocate for ALL children and I have the educational knowledge and experience that can benefit collaborative decision making.
28a. What do you think qualifies you to serve on the school board? [25 word limit]	28a. As a mother of three, a business owner, and a lifelong citizen, I bring a unique blend of perspective, experience, and knowledge to the board.	28a. It's important to have someone on the board whom the decisions affect the most. Being an active and involved parent qualifies me!	28a. Considerable experience: 6 children educated in all kinds of schools; founded and ran 6 charter schools; managed industry, 11k people in 5 countries.	28a. Refused to respond.	28a. I am ABSS graduate Andrews, Broadview, Cummings) who has spent my lifetime investing in my family and community which I will continue to bring to the board.	28a. As a mother, special needs advocate, and parent's rights advocate, I have the knowledge and heart to serve the children and parents of Alamance County.	28a. Ability to listen. Rash, sound decision making. Former involved parent of two ABSS graduates. A passion to serve and make our communities better.	28a. I have over 40 years of experience as a teacher and administrator. The education of children is my passion because it was my calling.
29. Do you have a child/children enrolled in ABSS?	29. No, (I have three nieces, a nephew, and two family members in ABSS.)	29. Yes.	29. No.	29. Refused to respond.	29. Yes.	29. No.	29. No.	29. No.
If yes, in which grade level(s)?		11th and 12th			While not biological, but I care for my nephew (11 th grade), godson (12 th grade) and while being on the board I advocate for over 22,000 children every day of my life.			My children have graduated already from ABSS, but I have 4 school-age grandchildren who attend: they are in 9th grade, 7th grade, 4th grade, and 3rd grade.
30. If there are one or more important education issue(s) about which you haven't been asked on this questionnaire, please feel free to identify it/them and explain its/their importance to you. [50 word limit]	30. It's important to recognize the role of public education. Many of the 184,000+ citizens do not support ABSS because they do not have a child enrolled. We must do better at advocating for ABSS to reinforce the value and lasting impact of strong schools.	30. No.	30. A very important issue is delegation of authority. If you centralize authority, nothing's going to run properly. ABSS is a de facto monopoly that needs more competition in order to improve.	30. Refused to respond.	30. Our schools have been the site for political battles for far too long. It is time for our schools to instead be a place of teaching and learning, one where we do a whole-community, whole-school, whole-child approach to public education.	30.	30. We are a very diversified county and that is good for all of us. I want to ensure that we are continuously recruiting staff to support that. We need to continue in working towards improving scores across the county. Need to recruit teachers who look like the children they are teaching.	30. Effective teaching and learning requires us to: provide updated resources/ training for staff; develop a plan for teacher retention; provide competitive supplements; encourage students to enter into higher education, the workforce, or the military; develop/implement alternative discipline plans to keep kids in school; provide a quality and equitable education for ALL students.