

Alan Sherouse Responses

Why are you running for school board and why do you think you should be elected?

Our public schools represent our best collective opportunity to impact the lives of our children and youth. My expectations for the education of my four children are no more or less than what I expect for the 68,000-plus in Guilford County Schools. I am eager to provide leadership that listens to the concerns of our community, but also remains steady and conscientious in working for equity and the opportunities to which all our students are entitled.

What is your background in education?

I am the son of a public school teacher and was shaped by a K-12 public education. I am a parent of four GCS students (Grades K, 1, 4 and 6), and my spouse, Jenny Sherouse, and I are active in our local schools, including Irving Park Elementary where Jenny Serves as PTA President. I am also a faith leader who has served congregations that provide programs in early childhood education, while also regularly partnering with local public schools and other community-based education and literacy programs.

What, in your opinion, are the biggest issues that face schools and children in Guilford County?

I am most concerned about inequitable outcomes across our system and that we recognize our capacity to work for the success of all of our students. Alongside of this, I am concerned that teachers be trusted, empowered and supported to ensure their longevity and thriving in our system. Additionally, we have a tremendous opportunity with our community's passage of the bond, and it is critical that we renovate and construct excellent facilities that reflect our investment in our students. All of this requires adequate resources, so we must work at the local level to advocate for necessary funding from our County and State.

What are your thoughts on critical race theory? What about teaching African-American history in schools?

I support our teachers in presenting a complete and thorough presentation of history, as I also oppose any boundaries that would silence our teachers or limit our history. "Critical Race Theory" is a body of legal scholarship that is not taught in our K-12 public schools, and has instead been redefined and used as a rallying cry to energize opposition. Understanding the difficult parts of our history, especially around racism and racial injustice, is part of how we ensure we do not repeat it. We can trust the expertise of our teachers. This is an especially critical value in Guilford County, where we are indebted to so many in the Black community for the advancement of civil rights and the movement toward justice for all.

What about LGBTQ+ rights in schools?

I support the inalienable rights and affirming, purposeful inclusion of LGBTQ+ persons in all parts of society, and certainly in our public schools.

What are your thoughts about banning certain books from schools?

I am in favor of increasing the access we have to books, and encouraging students to read and explore widely. Our teachers, librarians and media specialists are trained to introduce our students to developmentally-appropriate texts, and our students themselves can make decisions about their elective reading. An awareness of history should caution us against any organized effort to ban books.

If you were elected to the board, what changes/solutions would you push for?

I want to see us start by expanding what is already working. Our system has cut the graduation gap between Black students and white students in half over the last decade. I want to learn from the expert educators in our district how this happened, and how we can continue to work toward equity for our students.

What are your thoughts on the Jan. 6 insurrection?

Like most people of conscience and goodwill, I was deeply disturbed that the constitutional right to protest and dissent was abused and inflamed until it became full violence and insurrection.

Anything else you'd like to mention?

Not at this time. Please reach out any time if I can provide further info or be a resource in any way.