

## WCSB Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to share information about yourself, so we can share with the community. Your participation is a great signal that you believe in transparency and will serve with a willing and open mindset - we will post your answers 100% as you wrote them with no editing or associated commentary.

Please submit no later than END OF DAY 3/4/2022

Email \*

wericwelch@gmail.com

Name \*

Eric Welch

District

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How long have you lived in Williamson County? \*

Since 2005

Employer / Occupation \*

Director of Business Development in Consumer Market Research

Please select all that apply: \*

- My kid(s) currently attend a WCS school (2021-22)
- My kid(s) currently attend a FSSD school (2021-22)
- My kid(s) graduated from WCS
- My kids are not yet school age but will attend WCS or FSSD
- My kid(s) attends private school
- My kid(s) is homeschooled
- I have grandchildren enrolled in WCS (2021-22)

Which FSSD/WCS schools do your children attend? (Write N/A if not applicable) \*

Attended Johnson Elementary, Freedom Intermediate, Freedom Middle, and Centennial High School

What is or has been your involvement with Williamson County Schools to date? (e.g. PTO, volunteering, etc.) \*

PTO Executive Board, Board Member Cougar Athletic Club, Quarterback Club, Lucky Mudder Board Member, Tournament Director Centennial Wrestling Tournament, Concessions Volunteer, Holiday Show Volunteer, Campus Cleanups Volunteer,

Please list any professional or personal organizations you're currently or have recently (last 3 years) been involved with, including where you have a Board of Directors seat, sit on a committee, volunteer for, or regularly attend meetings \*

Williamson County Board of Education, Founding Board for the WCS Entrepreneurship Innovation Center, Corporate Advisory Board for University of Georgia's Masters in Market Research Association

What compelled you to run for this position? \*

I was an engaged parent-leader within the school system and saw the role as a natural progression to further serve the school system and the students, families, and community it serves.

What do you believe is the most important quality or characteristic for a Williamson County School Board member to possess and exhibit? \*

A servant's heart and desire to serve the students of Williamson County Schools over advancing a personal agenda, followed closely by the humility to listen to all view and the courage to make hard decisions.

What are your thoughts on the School Board races being partisan this year due to the new state legislature that passed in late 2020?

I worry that injecting additional partisanship and politics into Board of Education elections will be a net negative for public education in Tennessee. School board candidates tend to fall into one of two camps, those who have been parent-leaders in our PTOs and/or Booster Clubs or those who seek an elected office to advance their own agendas. The most effective school board members, those who have the greatest positive impact, overwhelmingly fall in the first category. The least effective ones, those who create unnecessary conflict and act as anchors on the district's goals of serving students always seem to fall into the latter.

What, if any, involvement have you had in local or state politics before running for School Board? \*

I previously worked for the Nat'l Federation of Independent Business, the nation's largest association for small and independent business owners where I assisted on numerous grassroots advocacy campaigns. I've also been an active voter in state and local elections.

Have you ever spoken at public comment during a School Board meeting? If yes, please provide details on the topic.

As a Board Member only

If you had to describe a School Board member's role in 1-2 sentences, what would it be? \*

The Board of Education's job is to hire the Superintendent and create the policies that the district operates. It is the Superintendents job to run the schools, but the Board's job to ensure that they're being run well.

Board members also serve as the their district's representative and advocate for specific needs, helping connect individuals to appropriate staff to assist on issues, answer questions, and solve problems.

How will you communicate with your constituents if elected? Please share links to your Facebook page, Twitter handle, and/or campaign website: \*

<https://www.facebook.com/ericwelchwcs> - [Twitter.com/EricWelchWCS](https://twitter.com/EricWelchWCS)

What are top 3 most pressing issues facing the School Board at this moment? \*

1. Challenges attracting and retaining quality teachers and staff in a competitive workforce.
2. Adequate funding for our school system.
3. Rallying support for public education in a political environment in which it is under continuous attack.

If an incumbent, what are you most proud of during your service as a School Board member?

I was the originator of our athletic apparel sponsorship program, having personally come up with the idea and schedule the original meetings with vendors and staff. It is the only program of its type in the state and has saved our parents and districts hundreds of thousands of dollars in direct and indirect benefits since its inception and opened the door to other partnerships and programs.

Do you believe WCS teachers are paid enough?

Yes

No

Do you believe WCS schools are adequately funded for their operational and capital needs?

Yes

No

What do voters need to know about you that we haven't already asked when deciding who to support and vote for as their representative? \*

I'm one of the more experienced voices on the Board and experienced leadership that understand the role of the Board and school operations is needed now more than ever as public education in our state is under increasing attack.

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