

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 *

graham4schoolboard@gmail.com

Name *

Shauna Graham, PharmD

District

8

How long have you lived in Williamson County? *

I grew up in Chattanooga and moved to Nashville in 2008 (Davidson County), and I've lived in Williamson County for the past 5 years.

Employer / Occupation *

I'm an oncology and bone marrow transplant clinical pharmacist by training, but have spent the past decade in various healthcare leadership roles. I currently serve as the Senior Director of Knowledge Management for HCA Healthcare. I'm also an assistant professor at the University of Tennessee, Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Translational Science.

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) *

Grassland Elementary School

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

I am very active in my children's education, and have previously served on the Grassland School Community Association's Sunshine Committee, participated in career days, Parents in PE, classroom readings and fundraiser events. While most of my experience and interactions with WCS teachers and staff have been at Grassland Elementary, I look forward to meeting more families, educators and staff from across the district.

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 *

HCA Healthcare's Caring for the Community Co-Chair (2017-2019), United Way Stuff the Bus Campaign lead (2018-2019); Women in Healthcare - Nashville Chapter (current member and part of the founding membership class of 2019); Nashville Emerging Leaders (Class of 2017); Heritage Foundation of Williamson County (member since 2020)

What compelled you to run for this position? *

While I'm proud of my career and professional achievements, I know my most important job is Mom. My two daughters are in 3rd and 5th grades at Grassland Elementary. I'm a proud product of Tennessee public schools, graduating from Central High School (Hamilton County) in 1995. My husband is a 1994 graduate of Brentwood High School, and my nieces and nephews attend Grassland and Brentwood schools. I believe education is the great equalizer in our society, and offers even the most disadvantaged children an opportunity to succeed personally, professionally, economically, and socially. I'm eternally grateful for the public school teachers who believed in me and helped me achieve my full potential. I'm a firm believer in hard work and perseverance (and these attributes are instrumental to my success), but a strong public education gave me the foundation to earn my bachelor and doctorate degrees with distinction. My academic success has afforded me opportunities to live and study abroad, meet new people, absorb different cultures, and understand new perspectives. I feel very fortunate to raise my daughters in Williamson County, and I want to ensure our public schools continue to thrive for years to come. I'm running for school board to give back to this community that I love. I will be a voice for all students and parents as well as the voters and taxpayers of District 8.

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

A sincere desire to serve all the students and families of Williamson County Schools

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

It's unfortunate that school board races have become overtly partisan as children should never be political pawns. There are extremists and unreasonable people on both sides of the political aisle who seek public office (including school board seats) simply to push their ideology and self-serving agendas. I don't believe the vast majority of Williamson County parents want any of these individuals governing policies for WCS. I have a wide group of Grassland mom friends, and regardless of political affiliations, we all want the same opportunities for our kids -- a top-notch education in a caring and nurturing learning environment. We love our schools and teachers, and we want to have a voice in our children's education. I believe in core principles of conservatism, including individual freedom, limited government, and free markets, but I do not allow ideology to come between my personal relationships. As a board member, I will be cooperative, fair-minded and data-driven.

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

I take my civic duty seriously and have a long record of voting in local and state elections. However, I've never volunteered for any political campaigns or belonged to any political organizations prior to my decision to run for school board.

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

No. However, I have attended several school board meetings in person during the past two years, and always view remotely if I'm unable to attend in person.

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

School board members serve as advocates for children and represent the voices of the voters in their respective districts. They work collaboratively with parents, citizens and school staff to develop district policies and evaluate outcomes. School board members are also responsible for approving budgets, appointing the Superintendent, and inviting two-way communication with all their constituencies.

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

I will use various social media platforms to keep constituents engaged and informed. I will also make myself available for special events/townhall forums to promote transparency and two-way communication.
Facebook: @drgraham4schoolboard Twitter: @ShaunaGraham615

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

Budget and Growth Challenges, Teacher/Staff Recruitment and Retention, Transparency and Accountability

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

N/A

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 am the only Republican candidate in district 8 who is not accepting any PAC funding for my campaign. If elected, I will put the interests of Williamson County students first, and will be accountable to the voters of district 8 (not any special interest groups).

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