

1. "Campaign Platform"

See attached material

2. "Why are you running for Decatur School Board?"

My wife Candi and I have made Decatur home for 35 years. Our four sons all graduated from MacArthur High School. My thirty-four year tenure as Executive Director of Decatur Park District began in March 1988 and ended with retirement in September 2021. Candi recently finished her thirty-year career as CEO of Heritage Behavioral Health Center, so we have been engaged and plan to remain an active community family. I have a long-standing interest in education. Several members of my family were teachers and school administrators. I do not bring a specific agenda or single interest. Rather, I bring a proven voice of reason and steady handed organizational leadership. With my retirement, I now have time to use my decades of successful management and governing experience by getting involved and helping reestablish community trust and confidence in a school system that is absolutely essential for our community to grow and thrive. A sound primary and secondary education establishes our children's future and thus the future of our community and its workforce. Right now, the success of our public school system takes top priority.

3. "Priority Issues currently Facing Decatur Public School"

a. The District faces a significant number of academic achievement issues today but none more important than the basic academic achievement at the elementary level - particularly at the K-3 grade level. It is commonly understood that at this level our students learn basic reading and math which they will then build upon throughout the remainder of their school years. When this doesn't happen, our youth are hindered for the rest of their school career and beyond. This is much more than simply a School District issue; it's a community issue.

b. Our schools should be a place where all students, faculty, and staff feel safe and secure. Students and teachers will perform better and have improved mental wellness in this environment. The end result will be improved student performance that ultimately enables our students to become better prepared for the workforce and life in our community.

c. The School Board itself needs to continually assess its own effectiveness and its relationship with District administration and staff. Organizational stability is of paramount importance. Sixteen or seventeen Superintendents over the past thirty-three years should be an indication that our District is in a constant state of change. Change is to be expected, but this seemingly endless change is not productive for our teachers and staff. More importantly it affects our students' learning. How can we as a Board set high expectations for our students, administration, teachers, and staff while we spend little time reviewing and improving our performance as Board members?

d. As the district emerges from the COVID related budget surplus, the Board will be forced to address issues such as declining enrollment, flat to declining community EAV, and escalating costs, to highlight a few issues. One should remember that the District is approximately 50% of the local property tax bill, and that is dependent on community stability and/or growth. I have a 34-year track record of willingness to proactively address organization reimagining and repositioning. When faced with this type of budget circumstance, timely information flow as well as a collaborative relationship between the Board, Superintendent and community make for better long-term decision making.

e. Extracurricular activities (athletics, music, etc.) involvement has a strong correlation with academic achievement. I would suggest that placing increased emphasis on these areas many times serves as a source of community pride and involvement.

4. "Facebook page"

Bill Clevenger for Decatur Public School Board