

Observer and Eccentric Survey

(75 word limit)

Name: Kevin Hammer
Age: 62
Profession: Retired
Education: B.S., Accounting, J.D.



1. Why are you running for office?

Education is the most important function of state and local governments. I want to work with our Superintendent and board members for the best educational outcomes for our students. Now being retired, I have time to devote to the position as is necessary to fully engage leadership, teachers, parents and community to most effectively prepare students to be good citizens, and for a future in either college or a vocational career.

2. What attributes or skills do you bring to the school board that will help move the school district and education forward into the future?

I have been involved in various civic and school groups and activities in the community. Most often, I've been asked to take on leadership positions. I believe this results from showing respect for others I work with, and gaining their confidence. Each board member should be treated with the regard as an equal, elected representative of our community, and the Superintendent should have our support and receive the means and vision to be successful.

3. What do you see as the most pressing issue facing your district? What will you do about it?

The primary role of a school board is to provide the clear vision and means, which I will focus on, for the Superintendent to improve student achievement, and close any achievement gap. These two goals, advocated with respect and civility, would help cure other challenges. In other words, high expectations for our students, and a focus on academic achievement toward college or vocational career is the best long term remedy for many pressing issues.

4. What do you consider the school district's strongest attributes?

Any District's strength lies in its dedicated teachers who teach to the high expectations they have for their students. Our challenge will be to hire, retain and provide ongoing professional development to maintain and improve this attribute. As

important are the principals who provide the leadership in our buildings. Without capable leadership in their buildings, teachers would be overburdened, there would be higher turnover, and most certainly be less effective.

5. What should your school district do to better prepare students as citizens?

Our district should provide each student with the tools and knowledge needed to be a contributing member of our society to the extent of their desire and abilities.

Regardless of a student's academic potential, they should be held to high expectations. Whether their potential is post-graduate studies, or embracing a trade, this entire range of outcomes are honorable and respectable ways to become good citizens: self-sufficient, personally responsible, kind, respectful, patriotic, civic-minded and generous.

6. Anything else to share?

FPS Board must have a very precise statement of purpose and related objectives and assure they are understood and supported by the community and staff. This will allow the entire District to focus on those actions that are aligned with that purpose and avoid using time and resources on those things that are not.