

BUTLER SCHOOL BOARD 2024 CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Running Member Name: Cale Swarnes

Background Information:

I'm a small business owner specializing in securing our freedoms and providing protection to those in need. I'm 42 years old and retired from the Army as an infantryman for the 101st Airborne. I did receive an Associates degree in the Arts of Teaching. I'm married to Kimberly Swarnes, a nurse, and have had 3 children attend Butler school district, 2 former and one current sophomore.

Civic Activities: (memberships and offices held, dates of participation)

I'm not sure about civic activities, but I have coached little league softball, baseball, and football for Butler.

1. What are your reasons for running for the Board position, and what do you feel is essential that we understand about you?

I'm running for the school board because I feel some of the decisions made in prior years weren't what's best for the students and teachers. I'm not a politician and am not concerned about feelings, only what's right.

2. Have you served on a school board before? If so, where and for how long?
No

3. What strengths would you as a board member bring to the Butler R-V School District?

I've had 3 students over the course of 14 years go through the Butler school district. I've seen what's worked, and I've seen what hasn't. I do believe my biggest strength is not being concerned about what others think of me, and will not just agree, because others want me to.

4. What do you perceive as the primary strengths of the Butler R-V School District?

I believe one of the strengths is our teachers. We have some very long tenured teachers and other great teachers who choose to educate our Children here in Butler. When a teacher is allowed to move to where they feel they are the most needed, that's when Butler is at its strongest. I do believe the community, when we come together, is also when Butler RV is at its strongest.

5. What do you perceive to be the major issue(s) facing our school district?

Obviously lack of financial support. However one of the biggest issues is politics. It's all about who you know or what your last name is. Mental health/bullying also doesn't seem to be taken as serious as it should be.

6. What are your goals for the Butler R-V School District in regards to students, staff, administration, and facilities?

I honestly don't know. I'm way to new at this to be able to give an honest answer. I'm not sure what all I can or can't do. My best answer would be to do right for the students and faculty.

7. What would be your plan of action if a few parents, teachers, or community members voiced a complaint to you?

I would ask them not to do so in public, first and foremost. I would also request that it be written so I can take the time process, understand, and respond appropriately.

8. What is your philosophy or approach to school financial management? What financial experience do you have?

My financial philosophy is that finances should be distributed fairly and appropriately, and that I would like to cut any wasteful spending in order to meet the needs of the students and teachers.

As a small business owner I do have some experience in finances, and how to make ends meet.

9. Please share your opinion on how you will support teachers and staff. What changes or recommendations would you make as part of the board in regards to things such as student and staff safety, behavior issues, added responsibilities beyond contract, etc.?

In order to support the teachers and staff I would first need to hear their concerns, along with their possible solutions. I would urge teachers to voice their concerns so that I can support them and we can work together.

10. Are there any additional things you would like the voters to know?

As an Army retiree, Christian, husband, father, small business owner in this community, who loves this country, this state and this town, all I want to do is cast my vote on whatever it may be, to help our students get the education they deserve, and support those who educate however I can.