

SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 5 DAVID R. MOORE



1. Why are you running for this position?

Eight years ago I felt called to serve my community as a school board member. I felt that I had skills, views, and a vision that would be beneficial to not only my family, but all families in Maury Co. I feel that I still have work to do and would love the opportunity to continue to serve my fellow citizens.

2. What specific experience and qualifications do you have that make you the ideal candidate for this position?

There is a learning curve with any elected position – and as the current District 5 board member that is well behind me. I know the requirements of the position and am ready to do the hard work needed. All three of my children have attended Maury County schools, with two having graduated and moved on. I get to view many issues both as a parent and a board member. I also am a business owner here in Maury County and understand operating parts of government like a business is a good thing.

3. In your opinion, what is the most important role of the Maury County School Board and, if elected, what will be your most important role as an individual board member?

My most important role would be to work with my fellow board members to unify behind our newly selected Superintendent. Creating a cohesive vision and supporting our leadership in achieving that vision is critical to make this work. Individually it is my responsibility to be an advocate for the school system, and to help the public understand the process and make sure that all citizens of the county are best served by each decision I make.

4. What do you see as the top 3 priorities for Maury County Schools and how do you plan to contribute to accomplishing those priorities?

The three priorities as I see them are:

1. Continue to aggressively address the rapid growth we are seeing in the entire northern half of our county. Failure to do this not only does a disservice to those residents, but it will also impact the rest of the county as rezoning and overcrowding spills over across the district.
2. We must continue the work to collect and transparently present good data related to our long and short term planning. This is critical to building trust with our funding body – the county commission – and the public taxpayer.
3. Academically we must begin a targeted plan to address core reading skills in the elementary grades. This is where the biggest impact can be made to improve the skills and overall education of the children in our county.

5. How do you plan to work collaboratively with the School Board, the Superintendent, and the County Commission to ensure financial stability, student success, and alignment with community expectations?

I have learned over the last eight years that regardless of how I feel about any issue, as a board of 11

people we have to find common ground to get anything done. This carries over that even once the school board makes its decision, we must inform and work with the county commission to secure the funding needed to achieve our goals. The groundwork for this has been laid as we now have a working Strategic Plan and a “living” 5 Year Facilities plan that is updated several times a year as needed. We must continue this work by setting standards and plans for upgrading and maintaining both our facilities and our academic planning.

6. Maury County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and country. This tremendous growth puts a strain on our school system. How do you plan to provide new schools and improve existing facilities?

Building on the foundation we already have created, we must work harder to stay on top of growth data. This includes collecting data from the county and cities, but also giving them feedback on how their decisions impact the schools. If we are to keep growing, we must make sure we properly fund that growth, and make sure that we are operating as efficiently as possible.

7. Understanding that the Maury County Commission is ultimately responsible for providing funding to the board for both operations and school facilities, how do you plan to improve collaboration between the School Board and County Commission to ensure appropriate funding is provided?

Improving our relationship starts with providing them with the right information. This helps them make better decisions, but also demonstrates that we are making informed and wise decisions.

8. The financial management of the district has been a point of emphasis for several years. What solutions do you propose to address this issue?

While I am not a fan of some aspects of the Financial Management Act we are now under, it has allowed us to clean up some of the financial messes that had been lingering for decades. To compliment that, I was happy to recommend we add funding for next year to bring on a financial lead on the school system side to begin working closely with the county department and help us operate even more efficiently.

9. How do you plan to interact with the community and the schools in your district in order to understand their specific needs and ensure those needs are being addressed?

I am a firm believer in being available to the people to share information and help them understand some of the complexities of a school system. From attending school functions, to volunteering at events, to sharing information openly and honestly on various social media platforms. One of my core beliefs is that the public need to have as much info as possible so they can make informed decisions for their families. I intend to always share as much info with the public as I am able.

10. What does a successful term look like to you?

I learned some time ago that many actions I take as a board member may not see immediate results. Additionally, many of the day-to-day decisions we make just keep the system running so the real work can be done in the classroom. I have learned to enjoy the little moments along the way – meeting students who leads us in the Pledge, or getting to see student artwork displayed, or other tangible evidence of the education the children of our county are receiving. Those kinds of moments are what make me proud for the work the school system is doing.

11. Quality education and a successful school district are top priorities for Economic & Community Development. If elected, how do you plan to partner with the Maury County Chamber & Economic Alliance to improve the Maury County School District?

I think it is important for the school system to get real-world feedback on the needs of the businesses in and around our county as we try to prepare students to either move on to college, trade school, or directly enter the workforce. That feedback can help us stay aware of emerging industries and trends to help us prepare students not just for today's marketplace, but the marketplace several years into the future.

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