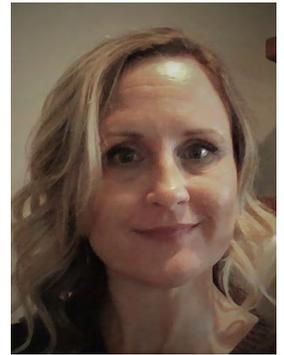


## SCHOOL BOARD - DISTRICT 5

### LAURA NUTT



#### 1. Why are you running for this position?

My name is Laura Nutt and I'm running for Maury County School Board District 5. Since the beginning of the lockdowns of 2020, I became increasingly interested in local government. I realized that most of our attention is given to Federal, and State government, when it is at the County and City level that we are the most affected. It is also where we have the most power as ordinary citizens. I decided that instead of complaining about the current state of affairs, I would get involved and see how I could be of service to my community.

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

I chose to run for School Board because of my experience in education. I have Homeschooled my two children for the last 16 years. My daughter has graduated and is currently attending Freed Hardeman University, and my son is going into the 11th Grade. My son is a High Functioning Autistic teen that also struggles with dyslexia and dysgraphia. My experience with Maury County School District is brief, as my attempt at enrolling him lasted only a few weeks in the 1st Grade. I mistakenly thought they would be equipped to help him with his reading and writing. Fortunately, I was able to bring him back home and teach him to read and write. He quickly caught up and is excelling in school. I believe all children deserve a good education, and not all parents can, or desire to educate their kids at home. That is why I decided to run for School Board.

#### 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?

I believe the most important role of the Maury County School Board is to ensure that all students in the district have access to safe school environments where they can receive a solid education from qualified teachers and a curriculum free from indoctrination. The School Board must be vigilant in ensuring harmful ideologies like Critical Race Theory and Queer Theory are not being surreptitiously integrated into the classroom. My research into MCPS has shown that this is, in fact, happening. The School Board has an obligation to be educated and aware of what is being taught in the classroom and what links children have access to on the MCPS website. The role of the school is to educate, not indoctrinate. I do not believe a School Board should be ran like a business, where the bottom line is the most important thing. For an example, some on the current board have suggested that the Unit Schools be abandoned for more centralized large-scale schools because it would be more cost-effective. Such decisions fail to make the education of children the priority.

#### 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 MCPS seems to be struggling to keep up with the County's growth. They are having a hard time staffing the current schools, while planning to build more. This is when it is essential to have proper priorities. You can't build more schools if the current ones are understaffed. To increase staff, namely teachers, would seem to be the most important step. I would advocate for raising the teacher's wages to match Williamson County. If you want good teachers, you need to offer them a competing wage. I would also suggest working with the County Commissioners on some sort of building moratorium

to allow the schools and infrastructure to catch up. You can't continue building high density housing and flood the current schools with new students. You don't invite people over for dinner, if you don't have enough food for your own children. Current students and families must take precedence over future potential students. This also goes for supplies and curriculum. It makes no sense to build a new school when the ones that already exist don't have enough necessary supplies and textbooks. I believe that the School Board and County Commissioner need to develop a working plan to resolve these issues.

**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 am a strong advocate of Parental Rights in school. I believe there has been a blurring of lines between the responsibility of the parents and that of the school. Parents should be encouraged to participate in School Board meetings and have a right to full transparency of what their children are learning in the classroom. I believe they should be encouraged to engage in their kid's education. This is especially important with children with IEP's. I have personally experienced the lack of concern and assistance when looking for help for a child with special needs. Learning to read and write are the most fundamental skills a child can learn, and the fact that there is a large percentage of Maury County students that do not read at grade level, is unacceptable. If a child is spending nearly 40 hours a week at school, and can't read at grade level, then the school has failed, and has become a glorified babysitter. A lack of discipline in the schools and parental responsibility has led some to feel the schools are not very safe. A strict code of behavior must be enforced for all students to be afforded the chance at a safe and effective education. I would like to plan some meetings specifically for feedback from staff and parents to gain a better understanding of what needs there are to be met.

**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?**

There is a lot of work to be done in the MCPS and I recognize the challenges that this County is currently facing. Over the years I've seen Maury County, especially Columbia, try to grow economically. I even ventured into a small business myself, The Book Nook Café, that I had to give up to continue my kid's education. Unfortunately, the poor schools have weighed Maury County down. We will never have successful towns if we have failing schools. People will choose to pay more to live in Williamson County. That's just a fact. I love Maury County, and I want to see her flourish, and believe I can play a part in helping her grow by being a member of the Maury County School Board.

**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?**

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**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?**

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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?

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

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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?

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