

I want the very best for our school district and that begins with employing and retaining the best teachers. I am not going to make any promises that I cannot in good faith keep. For example, I cannot guarantee that I can fix all of the salary inequities, however, I can guarantee that I will FIGHT for the right solution to the problem. At this time, it would be irresponsible for me to commit to salary increases without careful consideration of the budget.

It's my position that in this country the best teachers are not well paid. Here in Flagler we cannot wait for the US Department of Education or the Florida Department of Education to make funds available for salary increases. Just as recently as Saturday I spoke at length with Representative Proctor and his opponent Doug Courtney about the funding crisis as it relates to Flagler and what they planned to do about if elected. I have the skills and the developing relationships that are necessary in order to give Flagler a voice in Tallahassee. We have to examine the budget to see where reductions can be made while at the same time seek alternative means for funding through grants. On the campaign trail I have met countless retired teachers, whom I refer to as "human capital", that are willing to volunteer in the classroom. We have to take advantage of these offers to volunteer.

I am the mother of two boys, one of which is in the public school system already, and I have family members that are teachers. Therefore, I have a vested interest in increasing teacher's salaries and making sure that Flagler continues to provide a quality education for its citizenry. Below are some other points to consider:

1. I have attended many PTO meetings, SAC meetings, and school board meetings. I have spoken with individual principals, teachers and school board members to gather information about the issues and the priorities facing this school district.

2. I have listened and I understand that we must address the following to continue to provide a quality education:
 - A. **We need to negotiate a fair and an equitable plan for addressing the inconsistencies in our Step program for veteran teachers. I have the negotiating skills that will be invaluable in crafting a workable solution.**

 - B. All of our children must have their needs met so they can become successful and productive citizens. Measuring achievement with the FCAT alone is unsatisfactory. We do value basic skills; however, we must also value critical thinking and creativity.

 - C. To meet our goals as a school district, we must first honor and respect our teachers and staff by supporting them financially.

 - D. As a community we must approve the .25 mileage rate and we must seek grants to fund program in an effort to offset expenses that the district may no longer be able to fund.

Click here to view Evie Shellenberger's and Nate McLaughlin's endorsement:
<http://videos.livetournetwork.com/services/player/bcpid643371911001>

Raven Sword

This message was approved by Raven Sword for Flagler County School Board District 5