

Flagler County School Board Candidates: The Live Interview (2026)

Place and Date of Birth:

Current job:

Net worth: (*Please attach disclosure forms*)

Political affiliation (keeping in mind that school board races are non-partisan):

Please attach an updated resumé

1. How have you prepared yourself to be ready to succeed from day one, and what is your method at arriving at decisions? Tell us about the character flaws and unique perspectives you bring to the commission, and how you handle your mistakes or misjudgments. Who do you admire most in office today among elected officials in Flagler County—the person you'd consider a model of leadership?
2. Beyond the essentials (proficiency and better in all fields) and the slogans ("Flagler Forward" etc.), what is your realistic vision for public education in Flagler County and how are you uniquely qualified to help enact it within the limitations of the job? What is your level of comfort with interacting with community members from all backgrounds, and how willing are you to be visible and engaged beyond schools?
3. Evaluate the current board's performance in the last two years. Explain with examples where it has been lacking and where it has excelled. It has also been a divided board. What experience and qualities will you bring to improve its effectiveness and consensus-building?
4. The YMCA has asked the district for a \$3 million contribution for the future facility in Town Center, equal to Palm Coast's. Palm Coast has granted it. The district has not. Where do you stand on supporting the YMCA financially? Where do you stand regarding a potential memorandum of understanding with Palm Coast that would have the city and the district owning the swimming pool at the Y, in exchange for that \$3 million grant, giving students priority use though it would still be managed by the Y. Or would you favor a district funded new swimming pool separate from the Y, as some school board members have suggested?
5. Where do you stand on arming school personnel? Would you arm teachers or only non-teaching personnel? If supportive, what ratio of armed personnel-to-students would you consider reasonable, and why would you not increase school resource deputies, if you consider current SRD insufficient?
6. Explain the IB and Cambridge AICE programs and the role they play in the two high schools' annual grading profile. If it came down to a choice between funding either program or an athletic program, which would you choose? Beyond advanced academics, what two program areas do you consider dispensable in case budget cuts are essential?
7. Flagler County's population has grown 50 percent since 2007. Seniors (as in people over 65) make up a large portion of that, but the workforce, with working age families, has also nearly doubled. Yet the district's population

has remained flat the entire time since—not just since universal vouchers became law in 2023. Why do you think Flagler Schools stopped attracting students almost 20 years ago, and if it were up to you, what specific two initiatives would you propose to substantially reverse the trend?

- 8. The district is now A rated, but as School Board member Janie Ruddy noted, after congratulating students and faculty, we are still far behind national standards, and it is national standards we should exceed, not Florida's artificial if not bogus standards. What are your thoughts?**
- 9. The state has banned DEI initiatives. What are your thoughts on diversity and equity, and how is the district to ensure that we do not lose the gains of the last few decades, such as Title I (essentially, the largest education equity program in the nation), Title IX, and so on? What are your thoughts about Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)?**
- 10. The federal Department of Education is being dismantled. Flagler schools receive a shade under \$1 million of their \$163 million budget this year from federal sources—and nearly had to make do without for a brief period. How do you propose to make up that loss if it materializes?**
- 11. The current U.S. Supreme Court has broadened the place of religion in public spaces. A challenge to the 1962 decision banning school-sponsored prayer may be a matter of time. Assuming a challenge has been filed, what would the summary of your amicus brief say?**
- 12. Have you ever been charged with a felony or a misdemeanor anywhere in Flagler, Florida or the United States (other than a speeding ticket), or faced a civil action other than a divorce, but including bankruptcies, or faced any investigative or disciplinary action through a professional board such as the bar or a medical board? Have you ever been demoted? If so, please explain, including cases where charges or claims did not lead to conviction or disciplinary action.**

Thank you for your time and participation. FlaglerLive, and readers, are greatly appreciative.