

Hamilton Southeastern School Board Candidate Questions

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Name	Frank Whelan
Address	828 Sunblest Blvd Fishers Indiana 46038 United States
Educational Background	<p>I received a BA in Political Science with concentrations in History and Art History from Hobart College in Geneva NY. Professionally I have earned my Commercial Credit Qualification Certificate from Bank of Montreal/Harris Bank, Chicago, IL. I graduated from a two year Senior Leadership Development Program provided by the Bank of Montreal in Toronto, Canada. Currently I am in my third year of study at The Barrett Graduate School of Banking which is a comprehensive project based program studying finance, human resources, product development, working with regulatory agencies, lending, and coaching. I have just recently completed the 2nd of three parts of the Rotary Leadership Institute.</p>
Years as a Fishers Resident?	22
Community Involvement Activities (Volunteer)	<p>Carmel Arts Council - Past Board Member (5 years), Past Vice President (3 years): Indianapolis Symphonic Choir - Past Board Member (9 Years), Gala Chair (5 years), Past Board President(2 years): Carmel Chamber (Prior to combination with Fishers) - Member (9 years) Business Issues Committee (2 years): SPORTS Coach - Soccer 5 years: Current: Fishers High School - Choir Boosters Board of Directors, 7 years, Current President: Fishers High School - Showchoir Choir Stage Crew - 6 years (Current): Riverside Junior High - Speech Team - Volunteer and Judge - 5 years (Current): Fishers Rotary - Rotarian (2 years), Current Foundation Chair, Current Concert Parking Chair: School Volunteer - 20 years</p>

Leadership Experience

As a professional I have been involved in various segments of the banking sector for the past 20 years at different levels of management and responsibility. In that time I have front line, middle and upper level management experience, customer service experience, formal credit analysis training, as well as time in the investment and insurance areas. I have successfully led teams in multiple locations with multiple job functions. At my current bank I helped start up, staff, and operate an entire department focused on helping smaller sized business owners. I serve as a leader, mentor and guide for bankers who are starting out in their careers.

I have been very involved with several community organizations, particularly with arts nonprofits. I represented my bank at the Carmel Chamber of Commerce for 9 years and served on the business issues committee. That committee gave input to the chamber board so that we could effectively represent the business community's wishes to the city council and mayor. We tackled several issues including sign ordinances, zoning overlay recommendations, and the Keystone Parkway transition among others.

While in Carmel I also served on the board of the Carmel Arts Council including three years as Vice President. We helped support the art shows at Carmel High School as well as provided funding for several arts scholarships given for visual arts, performance arts, and writing arts.

My longest and most robust role was as a member of the Indianapolis Symphonic Choir's board of directors for nine years. During that time I served as Gala Chair, Secretary, Vice President, and President. I helped lead the choir through the recession and in that time we doubled revenue, significantly increasing patronage as well as diversifying funding. We instituted strict budgeting and reporting protocols. The board transformed from a micromanaging working board to one which properly used its authority for oversight and support.

Currently I am serving in a leadership role on the Fishers Choir Booster Club Board as President. We have instituted a formal budgeting process and manage a budget of over \$200K which funds all of the choir activities at Fishers High School outside of staff salaries and textbooks.

I am also serving in two leadership roles with the Fishers Rotary. The first is as Rotary Foundation Chair which presents information and encourages participation in the Rotary Foundation. The second is organizing volunteers and working with the City of Fishers to help with parking at large events such as the summer concerts.

1. What is your number one reason for wanting to serve on the school board?

We have great schools at HSE. Our teachers and staff are fantastic. We have a healthy partnership with the City of Fishers. With all of this as a foundation I want to help the district rise to a new peak, take on new challenges and be an example for others. I particularly would like to see the full implementation and expansion of the community as a classroom concept enabling students to both be life long learners and gain valuable experience that prepares them for life outside of the school campuses.

2. What role does policy play/have in the function of the board?

One of the boards main tasks is to review, ratify, modify, create, and oversee policy. The board does not implement policy or create the procedures as there is only one direct report to the board, the superintendent. As such the role of the board is to oversee with advocacy, not run or micromanage the School Corporation. Policy that is too restrictive handcuffs administrators and prevents timely decision making. I have a deep understanding in how a healthy board functions. I have leadership experience from multiple boards overseeing large budgets, endowments, fundraising, and strategic planning.

3. What legislative action at the state level would you support to improve education in our community.

I would support the following:1. More funding for school security in the form of funding for counseling and school resource officers.2. Funding to help pay student loans for recent college graduates going into teaching. (Based on a significant time commitment)3. Incentives for businesses to participate in internship and community learning programs.4. Continued review and improvement in the state funding formula which pulls money from growing districts and redistributes it to struggling districts.

4. What do you think is the biggest issue facing your district?

Our biggest challenge going forward is, for lack of a better term, culture. 1. Culture of Mission - We need to look at what the role of our schools is both now and in 10 – 15 years. While we create our future leaders and engaged citizens today, we need to look out and ask what we will need as an educational community and as a city in the coming decade. I believe our current and future success will be measured not only with awards and high test scores but also by enabling our students to be tomorrow's engaged citizens and leaders while they pursue their passion. 2. Culture of Service – We are in a time where fewer college graduates are opting to be teachers. We have a shortage. For our current staff we need to continue to offer opportunities for personal and professional development and a career path that is rewarding. We need to make HSE an employer that fosters not only a commitment to serve our students and communities, but also a commitment to serve our staff at all levels when compared to not only other schools but other employers. We need to increase our focus on recruiting bright, diverse, creative staff members. Without the right people and environment to teach our children, our mission is in jeopardy. 3. Culture of Engagement – This includes student, parent, employee and Fishers resident engagement. We need to continue to engage the community at large. Our city and community are one of the best educational resources that we have available that can be utilized to provide practical career, volunteer, and hands on experience for students to test out their theories, ideas, and dreams. We need to accelerate our partnership with the city for the Community Campus program. We should market to the community about the opportunities and successes in our school district.

5. If you were elected what one thing would you like to accomplish during your term?

I would like there to be no question as to what the board is doing and why they are doing it. I want to put students first while helping to create a culture in the district that embraces a positive coaching and leadership model that empowers students and staff.

6. Do you or have you had children in the Hamilton Southeastern school system?

YES

Preferred Contact Information (How do you want voters to contact you?)

Please contact me via my website: www.whelan4hseschools.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/whelan4hseschools Email: whelan4hseschools@gmail.com