

## Hamilton Southeastern School Board Candidate Questions

<b>Submission Date</b>	2018-09-18 11:20:30
<b>Name</b>	Julie Chambers
<b>Address</b>	Fishers Fishers Indiana 46037 United States
<b>Educational Background</b>	I graduated in 2003 from University of Michigan with a B.A. in Political Science. I then went on to earn my J.D. from University of Toledo in 2007, where I graduated Cum Laude.
<b>Years as a Fishers Resident?</b>	3
<b>Community Involvement Activities (Volunteer)</b>	This is my second year volunteering as a Girl Scout Troop leader for my daughter's Daisy Troop. I am also a member of Lawyer Moms of America and volunteer with the Indianapolis Bar Association as a mentor.
<b>Community Involvement Activities (Paid)</b>	None.
<b>Leadership Experience</b>	I have served for two years as a Girl Scout Daisy Troop Leader. I also volunteer as a mentor through the Indianapolis Bar Association and have served as a committee member of the Solo & Small Firm Section of the Indy Bar. Additionally, after having served for 5 years as a Deputy Prosecutor in Marion County, I founded my own law firm, which I have grown over the past 6 years to include staff.
<b>Professional Designations</b>	I graduated cum laude from the University of Toledo School of Law in 2007. I was also named a Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2017 and 2018.
<b>1. What is your number one reason for wanting to serve on the school board?</b>	I believe we need to improve communication between the Board and the community. Having talked to people throughout the district, the biggest issue I hear about is not feeling like the Board really listens to teachers and parents. With my background as an attorney and small business owner, I believe I can bring a lot to the table to improve communication and transparency. If we aren't listening to the teachers and staff, who are really the on the front lines of teaching our kids, we can't develop the best standards for our children's' educations.
<b>2. What role does policy play/have in the function of the board?</b>	I believe it is the board's role to establish policies for the district and the administration, but we have to avoid trying to micromanage the admin office or staff. As the board, we can decide on general educational standards, procedures for certain aspects of the administration and recommend new policies for central office, but it's not our job to be administrators. We have to be able to trust the Superintendent and staff to carry out the policies adopted by the board.

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

I believe we have to be fierce advocates for our schools to improve funding. The state should limit funds being diverted from public schools to be used for vouchers, and if we do allow funding to be diverted from public schools to private, I believe that private schools should be held to the same standards as public schools. Additionally, the legislature should make early education a priority, expanding funding for Pre-K and making sure those students who are ready to start Kindergarten are able to enroll according to their district's standards and that those students are fully funded by the state.

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

We have to address funding and make sure our priorities are in the right place when working on budgeting. Money is finite, so we have to be responsible in how we spend, but we must also do everything we can to make sure our teachers have the basics they need to teach our kids. Growth in HSE will also be an issue in the coming years, as it is projected that our enrollment will actually decrease over the next 10 years. We have to recruit the best teachers and make sure we can retain those teachers to continue to attract new families to the district, even as development slows.

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

Improve the way the board communicates with teachers and parents. We can improve the way the board disseminates information through the website, emails and regular discussions with the community. And we must take more time to really hear what our educators are telling us. They are the ones who know what works and what doesn't in the classroom, and if we aren't getting regular feedback from the teachers, there is no way to improve our standards, educational policies, and continue to grow as a district.

**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?)**

Voters can visit my website at [www.chambers4hse.com](http://www.chambers4hse.com), visit me on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/chambers4hse](http://www.facebook.com/chambers4hse), or email me at [chambers4hse@gmail.com](mailto:chambers4hse@gmail.com).