

Carmel Clay School Board Candidate Questions

Submission Date	2018-10-02 10:29:43
Name	Layla Spanenberg
Address	931 Twelve Oaks Carmel Indiana 46032 United States
Educational Background	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ BS in Pharmacy from Purdue University, 1994◦ MS in Biology from Purdue University-Indianapolis 1995
Years as a Carmel Resident?	21 years
Community Involvement Activities (Volunteer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Indiana School Board Association Nominating Committee District 5 Delegate (2017-current)◦ Indiana School Board Association 2018 Legislative Delegate◦ Special Olympics of Indiana (SO Indiana) Board (2014-current)◦ SO Indiana Executive Committee (2016-current)◦ SO Indiana Governance Committee Chairperson (2016-current)◦ SO Indiana Healthy Community Advisory Committee (2014-current)◦ Boy Scouts Of America (BSA) Leader (2008-current),◦ BSA Venture Crew 131 Adviser (2018-current)◦ BSA Troop 131 Assistant Scoutmaster (2011-current)◦ BSA Del-Mi Unit Commissioner (2013-current)◦ BSA Del-Mi Nominating Committee Chairperson (2017-current)◦ BSA 2019 World Scout Jamboree Global Initiatives Team (2018-current)◦ Carmel United Methodist Church Volunteer (2013-current)◦ Carmel High School (CHS) PTO Board of Directors (2014-current)◦ CHS PTO Homecoming Chairperson (2016-current)
Community Involvement Activities (Paid)	Carmel Clay School Board Member (2010-current, \$2,000 annual stipend)

Leadership Experience

- Carmel Clay School Board (2010-current)
- Carmel Clay School Board President (2012-current)
- Carmel Clay School Board Vice President (2011-2012)
- Special Olympics of Indiana Board of Directors (2014-current)
- Special Olympics of Indiana Executive Board (2016-current)
- Special Olympics of Indiana Governance Chair (2016-current)
- Carmel High School PTO Board of Directors (2014-current)
- Boy Scouts of America Leader (2008-current)
- BSA Wood Badge Leadership Trained and trainer (2012, 2018)
- Carmel Education Foundation Board Member (2009-2012)
- Smoky Row Elementary PTO Executive Board (2006-2010)

Professional Designations

Registered Pharmacist, Immunization Certification and Advanced Wilderness First Aid Trained

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

I want to continue to serve on the school board to ensure our students have the resources and tools they need to be socially, emotionally and academically successful in the classroom and in life beyond school.

Our children must be cherished, nurtured, educated and protected while gaining college and career readiness skills. The community relies on the school board to provide students with the best educational experience and a safe environment to learn and thrive.

Continuing to enhance our historically strong Carmel schools is a key factor in growing the community. I believe my active involvement and volunteer work with our Carmel Clay schools, boy scouts, Special Olympics and church show my passion for ensuring all children have diverse educational experiences to enhance learning.

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

One of the governance responsibilities of a school board is to create and approve policies for the school district. Good policy provides for efficient, consistent, effective, and fair management of a school system. Policy, along with CCS Guiding Principles, defines how CCS operates. The Carmel School Board develops all district policies with guidance from State and Federal Statute, legal counsel, and best practices. The school board must consistently review policies to ensure compliance with statutory changes and alignment with modern business approaches. School boards do not micromanage the day-to-day operations of a school district. Instead, the school board sets and communicates policy to CCS employees. With this clear direction from the board, CCS employees can effectively manage all aspects of Carmel Clay Schools and deliver an exceptional program to our students.

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

To improve education in our community, I support a state law that improves how students are benchmark tested each school year.

Currently, the state requires a high stakes end-of-year summative test and individual results are not available for months after the school year has ended. A state law that eliminates a single high-stakes test and focuses on student benchmark testing throughout the school year (formative testing) would best meet student needs and improve education. Using periodic formative classroom assessments gives teachers real-time information to adjust lessons in response to individual student growth and performance throughout the school year.

A state law that permits a formative testing process will support individual student growth and would improve education in Carmel Clay Schools.

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

I think the biggest issue facing Carmel is maintaining excellent schools for our students and employees in the face of real-world challenges and financial constraints. Carmel is the second least funded Indiana public school district. Carmel schools face unfunded state mandates while per-pupil state funding continues to fall well below the state average. School safety is of paramount importance and Carmel must focus resources on adding layers of security to protect our students and employees. Adolescent anxiety, depression and suicide rates continue to rise in Indiana. Mental health issues compromise student safety and prevent students from reaching their full potential. In this fast-paced, media driven world, students learn differently and teachers have a mere 8 seconds to engage students. We are educating students for jobs that do not even exist yet. The pressures and demands on Carmel schools are real and maintaining excellence requires a team approach to meet the needs of each student.

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

The one thing I would like to accomplish while serving on the board is creating an updated strategic plan for Carmel Clay Schools to ensure a bright future for all Carmel Clay students and the employees.

The current 5-year plan is near completion and CCS must keep the trajectory moving upwards. Utilizing a collaborative process and feedback from teachers, parents, students and the Carmel community, the district must evaluate all areas of the school system including school climate, school culture, mental health, safety, achievement and finance. Once evaluated, the district should set long-term goals and strategically develop a new plan to achieve these goals while responsibly using the financial resources provided by the taxpayers.

The plan must provide the best educational environment so students and employees have the tools to thrive and feel respected, empowered and safe.

6. Do you or have you had children in the Carmel Clay school system?

YES

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

lspanenberg@gmail.com