

Carmel Clay School Board Candidate Questions

Submission Date	2018-09-26 20:56:28
Name	Mike Kerschner
Address	9797 Wentworth Ct., Carmel, Indiana 46032 United States
Educational Background	B.S. in Accountancy, University of Illinois; J.D. with honors, IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law
Years as a Carmel Resident?	20
Community Involvement Activities (Volunteer)	See Below
Community Involvement Activities (Paid)	Carmel School Board members receive a small annual stipend.
Leadership Experience	My most recent leadership role was to chair the recent CCS superintendent search committee that hired Dr. Michael Beresford. I have also served as CCS board secretary and legislative liaison. At IHC I had a variety of leadership roles, starting with co-chairing the young members group then chairing numerous committees and board president. I was also the chair of the search committee that hired our current Senior Rabbi.
Professional Designations	Member Indiana State and Indianapolis Bar Associations; Certified Public Accountant (not licensed)
1. What is your number one reason for wanting to serve on the school board?	The number one reason that I want to continue to serve on the Carmel School board is to carry on with what we have started with Dr. Beresford as our new superintendent. I have never been interested in school board for any one specific issue but for what is in the best interests of all our students and our community. I recognize that our public schools are one of the greatest assets of our community, thanks to the parents, students and teachers. We need to continue to improve and innovate in a fiscally responsible manner. I know that the last year was a rough year for the CCS Board and I want to finish what we have started with Dr. Beresford.

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

The school board has three main responsibilities. The first is to hire and supervise the district's superintendent who serves as the district's CEO. The second responsibility is to approve the budget. The Board's third responsibility is to set policies for the district, which includes school safety. Prior boards have established and revised our CCS policies. The board continually revises the policies as needed. I am proud of the guiding principles developed by the CCS board when I was elected for my first term. I have strived to help make Carmel Clay Schools a welcoming and inclusive community. As a CCS board member, I always have and always will put the best interest of our students first.

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

To improve education in our community and our state, we need increased funding for public schools so we can pay teachers the salaries they deserve for the job we rely on them to do. We need to attract people to the teaching profession. State funding for education has been rising in the last few years but Carmel is still not funded back to pre-recession levels. The legislature also recently revised the funding formula that helped Carmel, but the legislature has also taken public funds away from public schools to support private schools.

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

I think the biggest issue facing our district is addressing the social and emotional needs of our students. The world is a much different place than when I was in school. With the internet at their fingertips, our children live in a world which provides them with many responsibilities, dangers, and opportunities. Our teachers and administrators are preparing our students for jobs that do not yet exist. They must continue teaching them how to problem solve, work collaboratively, and use technology wisely and responsibly. Our academic programming will always be a hallmark of our great district but will be made even stronger as we include social emotional learning.

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

If I am re-elected to serve on the board, I will support and work with Dr. Beresford as he continues to learn about our outstanding school district. I am excited about all the experience that he brings to the position, especially in school safety and the social and emotional needs of our students. I also want to see that we have an effective and efficient process for the redistricting that will occur when we open our two new elementary schools as well as how we plan for the use of the Orchard Park property. I know that the question was one thing, but I also want to continue the district's fiscal responsibility to our taxpayers. Carmel Schools are fortunate that Carmel has a diverse tax base which assessed value allow Carmel Schools to have a relatively low property tax rate. However, Indiana schools get most of their funding from the State and not property taxes. We are fortunate that our community values education and overwhelmingly passed the referendum that allows us to adequately fund our schools.

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?)

My campaign e-mail address is: Kerschner4ccs@gmail.com

Community Involvement Activities (Volunteer):

CCS Redistricting Parent Advisory Committee (2011); Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation board president (2006-2008) and other volunteer roles (1996-present); Assistant coach for Carmel Dad's Club teams (multiple years); Relay for Life team captain and member (multiple years); Indianapolis Bureau of Jewish Education board member (2011-2012); Central Indiana Community Association Institute Legislative Action Committee (2005 - present); Carmel Redevelopment Commission (school board representative, 2015-present).