

School Board Candidates Forum Part I

The Schuyler County Times in conjunction with the Schuyler R-1 MSTA (Missouri State Teachers Association) chapter, was to sponsor a live candidates forum for those running for the School Board this election cycle. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions we are running it in the paper and on the website.

themselves and why they are running.

Next week, our May 28, 2020 issue, we will print the questions provided by the MSTA and answers they provided by the candidates.

The candidates appear in the order they appear on the actual ballot.

This first part is a brief introduction and message from the candidates about

(You will vote for THREE of these first seven candidates to fill the three available positions.)



Michael Scheib

Michael Scheib has resided within the Schuyler County R-I School District since 2009. He moved to the area for employment with Tri-County Electric Cooperative and is currently Manager of Operations. He lives in rural Schuyler county with his wife Diane and daughters Allie (class of 2020), Makayla who is a freshman, and Morgan who is a 7th grader.

Michael graduated from Trenton R-9 High School in 1999. He earned an Associate's of Arts degree in Business Administration from North Central Missouri College. He possesses a four-year lineman certificate from the Missouri Public Utility Alliance as well as a certificate in Safety and Management from the University of Wisconsin.

Michael was drawn to Schuyler County because of the small-town atmosphere, strong sense of community, and excellent quality of education within the school. Michael and his family have been involved in a variety of activities which has allowed them to give back to the

community they now call home. He strongly believes that being active in local organizations helps the kids and the community of Schuyler County. He has donated both time and monetarily to Schuyler County R-1 Booster Club, Schuyler County R-1 Football program, Schuyler County 4-H, Schuyler County Rotary club, Schuyler County Cancer Relief Fund, Schuyler County Nutrition Site, Schuyler County Museum, Schuyler County Baseball Association, Queen City Pioneers days, Salvation Army, and local benefit golf tournaments to name a few. He has even filled in as a grandparent for children who didn't have anyone on grandparent's day at the school. He stated of all the time he has volunteered, that was probably one of the most important.

Michael believes that a strong education along with a willingness to help others is detrimental in shaping our youth. He is a strong and effective leader. Mike would appreciate your vote on June 2nd for Schuyler County R-1 School Board.



Kevin Wheeler

Graduate of Schuyler R-1 Schools, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Columbia College, Masters of Education from University of Missouri-Columbia. I have worked in or with the electric utility industry for past thirty-four years. During this time I have been an instructor at a technical college, taught training seminars throughout the Midwest and been a work practices expert witness for equipment manufactures.

I have had numerous people ask me to run for the school board

and feel like it is my civic duty with my education and experience to give back to our children and community. Our children are the future therefore, we need to provide them with them best possible education and prepare them for their next step in life. It takes four items to make a school successful: 1) academics, 2) staff, 3) community support, and 4) extra-curricular activities. The board has a fiduciary responsibility to make sure monies are being spent appropriately and to make sure all policies and procedures are being followed as written.

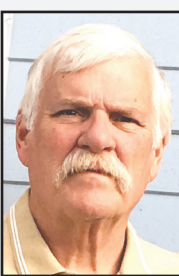


Kevin Buckallew

My name is Kevin Buckallew and I am asking for your vote in the June 2nd election for school board member. I graduated from Schuyler R-1 in 1996. I continued my education at Indian Hills Community College with an Associate of Arts Degree. While at Indian Hills, I was selected to participate in Collegiate Advisory Team for the Iowa Corn Growers Association. I currently sit on the Education Advisory Board for the Agriculture Department with Indian Hills Community College. I currently work for Nutrien Ag Solution in the Memphis, MO location and serve as an Agronomist/Sales Manager. My wife, Kara, and I are the proud parents of 4 children: Allyson, 21, Sydney

19, Mariah, 14, and Kelsey, 11. We live in our hometown of Lancaster.

The growth and development of our community has always been a top concern of mine. I volunteer for the Lancaster Fire Department, as well as for community events and for local churches. Volunteerism and assisting within our community are essential in the growth and development of our county. Sitting on the school board is another way for me to donate my time to ensure the quality of education in our school system. As a school board member, I will make a positive impact both in our school and for our county. I would greatly appreciate your vote on June 2nd.



Kirk Cohagan

My name is Kirk Cohagan, I live in Lancaster with my wife, Charlotte, a High School math teacher, who recently retired from Schuyler R-1 after 30 plus years of teaching, my daughter Kelsey, who will be a Senior at Schuyler R-1 and my son, Will, who is currently attending the University of Missouri, Columbia after graduating from Schuyler. I almost forgot we are also the home to the three most demanding members of our household, our dogs, Ozzie, Max, and Paris.

I am also a retired educator, having spent many years as a history teacher and coach. At Schuyler, I helped start the A+ Program as the A+ Coordinator and then became the Elementary/Middle School Principal. I was also a basketball referee for over 30 years and over 25 years as a track starter, I am very proud to say that I start the Schuyler R-1 Rachel Morris Invitational Track Meet.

My wife insisted that I find something to do besides re-doing furniture and adding to my sports memorabilia collection, so I started working at Buddy's Place. This is perfect for me so I can still go to all of the events that my children are involved in as well as attending the many meetings and functions that are required as a School Board Member. Kelsey is involved in many activities at school as well as active in softball and basketball, achieving numerous awards in softball. Will was active in many activities at Schuyler and since graduation he has joined the Army National Guard and is now a Cadet in the Mizzou ROTC program. Needless to say I am very proud of the many

accomplishments of my family. I feel like my children have gotten a great education from Schuyler R-1 school district and it has prepared them well for their future.

I am running for the Schuyler R-1 Board of Education simply because I have a vested interest in Schuyler R-1. My family members have spent a number of years in Schuyler County, as school employees or as students in the school district and we want Schuyler to be the best in everything. Ideas high on my priority list are 1) academics, whether it is for the college bound or for trade school training, 2) continue hiring the best teachers and administrators, 3) all extra curricular activities, and 4) budgeting the hard earned tax money that the county and state patrons are giving to the School district wisely.

We (the Schuyler R-1 Board of Education, administrative team, teaching and support staff) have accomplished a great deal in the 3 years that I have been on the School Board, one year as a member and two years as Board President. High expectations for academic success as well as improving our school campus into becoming one of the Crown Jewels of Northeast Missouri are something that all Schuyler County residents should be proud of.

The years to come will be exciting for the Schuyler R-1 School District, with the additional tax money coming in because of the wind turbines and I would like to be a part of that future. Thank you for your consideration.



Jessica Blackorby

Introduction

My name is Jessica (Moore Gottman) Blackorby, I am a 2004 graduate from Schuyler R-1 and a lifelong resident of Schuyler County. My husband, Chad, and I chose Schuyler County to raise our two children because of the smaller school district which allows for more student-teacher interaction and the opportunity to build stronger relationships. We have also been very happy with the quality of teachers Schuyler R-1 has been able to offer, who are truly passionate about the future of their students. I have been employed by Northeast Missouri Health Council, Inc. for the past five years and currently serve as their Finance Assistant Accountant. I also play a very active role in my community, currently serving as President of the Schuyler County Cancer Relief Fund and Secretary of the Schuyler R-1 Booster Club.

Why

I am running for Schuyler R-1 School Board of Education to advocate for all of the current and future students in our county. As a parent with a child on each end of the spectrum, one who excels in both academics and sports with little to no effort and one who needs extra support to be successful, I can relate to every parent and family in our school district. I believe that the school board must be receptive to parents, staff, students and the community and encourage an open dialog. The board must take input from all groups and weigh all the facts before making a decision. If elected, every decision I make will be based on what's best for the district as a whole; not just one employee, one group of students, or one sport. I will not be afraid to ask tough questions, demand thorough and transparent answers and push for excellence. I would greatly appreciate your vote on June 2, 2020.

Thank You, Jessica Blackorby

