

St, Tammany School Board District 1

Sheryl Coglaiti-Bolin	Republican	withdrew (Sec of State)
'Matt' Greene	Republican	
Guy LeCompte	Republican	

Questions and Answers:

- 1) **What experience in your background prepares you to effectively ensure transparency and accountability as a school board member in setting and achieving sound educational goals?**

Matt Greene:

I have 4 years experience serving on the School Board. 2 years as Chair of the Finance Committee and 1 year as Chair of the HR committee. I am a successful business owner in St. Tammany Parish. 20+ years in finance and accounting with an MBA in Finance and Accounting from the University of Chicago, and use that background and experience to manage transparency and accountability in our district and effectively set sound educational goals. In the 4 years I have served on the Board we have overcome plenty of adversity (namely Covid) and have improved our state standing from #18 to #6.

Guy LeCompte:

First, I am certainly not a politician. I'm a husband, father, and concerned citizen. Having worked in education over the past 28 years I've witnessed the decline in education due to ridiculous policies and curriculums. Teachers and high school administrators have had their hands tied both in the way subjects are taught to the way they are allowed to discipline students. In recent years things have rapidly changed. Now parents' hands are being tied as woke curriculums and questionable health policies infiltrate the classrooms. My pledge to you is that I will fight for rights of parents and teachers, fight to protect the children and the shed light on the way your tax money is being spent in our school system.

- 2) **Despite pay raises and the new certification program, the significant teacher shortage in St. Tammany schools continues. Until the vacancies are filled with qualified teachers, what measures will you take to staff classes and ensure all students receive the highest quality of education?**

Matt Greene:

We will soon approve a company called ESS that will help alleviate some of the shortages by recruiting and filling substitute positions. We also recruit extensively at all state universities, and try to hire the best teachers from surrounding districts by offering a great quality of life in St. Tammany and attractive pay and benefit packages.

Guy LeCompte:

Having served as an educator, coach, and administrator I personally can attest to challenges of this profession. This is a multifaceted issue that is affecting school districts all around our country. These issues are but not limited to:

- 1. Administrative support*
- 2. Discipline (or lack of)*
- 3. Compensation (or lack of)*
- 4. Demands and responsibilities required of teachers*
- 5. Curriculums*

Essentially people don't quit their jobs, they quit their bosses. Most educators entered the profession to make a difference; however, the demands of the job have increased and the appreciation has decreased.

Most teachers are educated people that have other options. The entire system is flawed. I do have a lot to say concerning this topic because it is a dilemma nationwide.

- 3) **St. Tammany teachers reportedly consider that the administration does not support them and that they are being asked to do more daily tasks than they can handle with their teaching responsibilities. How will you address the perception that teachers lack the support they need?**

Greene:

I've heard that from a few teachers, but I don't think that represents the majority of teachers in our District. If teachers really feel this way then they need to be upfront and open with their school administrators and central office. Covid certainly put more pressure on teachers, but as things return to normal and teacher vacancies are filled I think morale will improve. High stakes testing (LEAP tests) are mandates from the state affect us locally more than folks know. We should be doing more to put pressure on BESE and LDOE to change policies that negatively impact teachers and the learning environment.

Guy LeCompte:

This perception is reality for teachers. There is an incredible amount of responsibility as well as liability placed on teachers which should not be. If elected, I plan on researching where some of the ridiculous policies are coming from, whether from the Federal or State level and what options we have at the local level to alleviate some of these responsibilities.

- 4) **Many of the schools in St Tammany were built with a design in which open corridors connect adjacent wings of the buildings. Considering this building design could expose children to threats from outside the school campus, what will you do to address the critical problem of ensuring school safety now and permanent changes for the future? How do you propose paying for the changes or measures you identify as a necessary solution to school safety?**

Matt Greene:

Some of the security measures that have been taken and we continue to work on throughout all of our 55 school locations: SRO (police) at every school, single point of entry, all doors locked, ID only access badges, and ongoing lockdown and school safety drills.

Guy LeCompte:

This is not a question that I can easily answer. The one thing for certain is that I will push for an internal auditor that will answer to the board and not the central office administration. I will also push to form a budget committee to monitor spending. Once this is established we will have a clearer picture of the finances available to adequately meet these needs.