

St, Tammany School Board District 7

Jordan Johnson
Isabelle Moore

Democrat
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?**

Jordan Johnson

I crossed as a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. where I was nominated by my brothers to be brother of the year, a Jewel award recipient, in addition to being appointed Vice President and President of the chapter. All of the positions and accolades were a byproduct of my dedication, efforts, and persistence towards improvement in every aspect of my college career and tenure as a member of my chapter. I was employed as an Assistant Manager on a three man cross country tour where my role was to oversee staffing and logistics. I was recently employed with St. Tammany Parish Recreation District #4 as the Executive Director where one of my many duties was to provide lifelong positive memories to every citizen young or old that entered through the doors. My goal was to leave the center better than it was when I departed from it. Each example I shared depended on my transparency and accountability because the general public, consumers, and my brothers had to "buy in" to my vision and views of what I wanted to achieve in every position that I was in. Needless to say, I was able to gather the trust and support of every group I encountered through each level of my personal development which I am still diligently working on today.

Isabelle Moore

I retired from the STPSB after 38 years as an educator. I spent the last 10 years of my career as Principal of Mandeville Elementary. As the person in charge of my school, I was responsible for being accountable to parents, students and our community.

I have my Master's degree plus 30 hours. My major was curriculum and instruction , Elementary Education. I want to make sure our students reach their maximum potential.

I was appointed to the school board in February 2022.

During my time on the board we have resolved our bus driver issues, given teachers and support staff raises. All teachers K-12 receive \$500.00 for classroom supplies . We have enriched the K-2 ELA curriculum with new materials that our teachers have selected. We now offer our students phonics and handwriting which has been missing. We taught this when I was a principal. All students have a chrome book to do homework and class work. I am definitely observant of our taxpayers dollars. I will answer any question about how funds are spent.

- 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?**

Jordan Johnson

I will take one of many measures to ensure all students receive the highest quality of education and we impact the teacher vacancies. In my honest opinion, the culture has to change and it starts at the top. Educators and every individual walking every campus across our parish is a stakeholder in our children's success. We must empower every individual employed in our program and make it genuine. Change our engagements with each other, change our engagements with other staff members, change our engagements with the students and beyond. When an individual feel valued, they are more engaged in their work across the board and when it comes off as a "job" we begin to burn out and lose valuable professionals that can make a difference in the future of our youth's lives across the board. I would look to also work with our legal team to see what legal efforts can happen to impact our teachers with

businesses across our parish. A pay increase did occur, but it still is not sustainable with cost of living continuing to rise and many educators having multiple jobs in addition to being one of our stars. Maybe we can help with housing, personal laptops, or many other ideas we can possibly partner with to support them and our educators at the same time.

Isabelle Moore

Our teachers need to be rewarded for their hard work and commitment. We need to take away some of the none educational jobs they have to do.

Respect needs to be our top priority from their administrators and central office.

I see pay increases in their future.

- 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?**

Jordan Johnson

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Isabelle Moore

My answer to question 2 addressed many of these issues. Teachers need to be supported by the administration. Principals were given the job of venting substitutes. This job should go back to central office to our HR department.

Teachers need incentives for outstanding performance. Their performance must be recognized.

- 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?**

Jordan Johnson

I can agree that this has been a growing concern for everyone with a heartbeat at this point because it is happening too often. I would ask to sit with our engineers and educate myself on these designs and then ask them for their recommendations or have they looked into modifications of correcting this design to ensure the safety of our students seeing as how the current climate suggests we need to. I would also ask the board to form a committee or even have it as a topic of discussion at the committee as a whole meeting to brainstorm ideas to be proactive rather than reactive. I would have to familiarize myself with the budget before I can make an proposals and see where we can cut cost and still be efficient and effective in addition to searching or researching grants, programs, or outside aid to help fund that initiative.

Isabelle Moore

As a principal I told my parents that my first priority was their children's safety. I have visited all of the schools that I represent and have already addressed issues with our maintenance department.

All doors are now locked throughout the school day. Access is with a special issued card. Students will be receiving their ID cards that will let them access their classrooms.

We have a police officer in ALL schools. These officers patrol the schools both inside and outside .

We will find the funds to finance all improvements.

There will only be one access point for each school for entry. We will eliminate multiple entrances.