



2022 Candidate Questionnaire

Contact C.P.R. for McDowell County at support@cprformcdowell.org | Updated 4/15/22
For more information about C.P.R. for McDowell County please go to our website www.cprformcdowell.org
The information contained in this document is for informational purposes. The information was obtained directly from the candidates. We have done our best to represent the information as accurately as possible.



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Introduction

Christian Perspective Representatives is a faith-based nonprofit organization that is comprised of a group of dedicated volunteers from churches throughout McDowell County who stand in unison for Biblical values and Constitutional rights, support and affirm human dignity, and value all people.

C.P.R. operates strictly on a volunteer basis. No one involved with C.P.R. receives any type of compensation. C.P.R. began in 2021 as a nonpartisan group to circumvent the loss of freedoms of our children, parents, and employees in public schools and institutions throughout our state and nation. Since we believe there is potential for topics such as sexuality, gender identity, and extreme theories to be taught to our children in harmful and potentially damaging ways, we want to be part of the solution.

C.P.R. does not endorse or oppose any candidates for public office or any political party. This questionnaire is being distributed electronically through our website, mainstream and social media, supporting churches, and other means. We have produced a questionnaire for: (1) McDowell County Commissioners, and (2) McDowell County Board of Education.

The purpose of our questionnaire is to inform and educate voters of each candidate's position on a variety of general topics that are relevant to C.P.R.'s mission. As a faith-based organization, the questionnaire was designed to be distributed through Churches where the topics of the questions are of the utmost interest to a Christian voter.

Questionnaire Information

The information received from the questionnaire came directly from the candidates themselves. C.P.R. asked the questions, they responded, and we have published their responses. To ensure the integrity of the questionnaire, candidate answers are published verbatim. No edits for grammar, spelling, etc. were made to the candidate's answers. An attempt was made to contact each candidate by email, phone, text, or social media if determined necessary, inviting them to respond to the questionnaire. Candidate responses are presented by office and then alphabetical order by last name. If a response was not submitted the publication will state "Did not respond."



County Commissioner Questionnaire

- 1) Why have you chosen to become a candidate for the McDowell Board of Commissioners? Is there a particular issue that has motivated you in this decision?
- 2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?
- 3) Commissioners have oversight of the academic programs offered in both K12 schools and MTCC, what changes if any would you recommend?
- 4) What issues do you believe need to be addressed pertaining to Industry and job opportunities in McDowell County?
- 5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system works?
- 6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?
- 7) What is your opinion concerning the role of public schools in educating children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?
- 8) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for our county?
- 9) If elected, how can CPR of McDowell County support you as a member of the board of commissioners?
- 10) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

Board of Education Questionnaire

- 1) Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you?
- 2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?
- 3) What issues do you believe need to be addressed in academic programs and offerings? What changes would you recommend?
- 4) What is the role of schools in teaching children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?
- 5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system operates?
- 6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?
- 7) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for the school system?
- 8) If elected, how can CPR for McDowell County support you as a member of the Board of Education and McDowell County Schools?
- 9) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?



County Commissioners



Tony Brown

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**Response was submitted in essay format instead of question format as shown below.*

I chose to become a candidate for County Commissioner with my number one goal to protect our spiritual, and moral values that are being attacked by the far left, and to insure the spiritual integrity of our forefathers is protected.

Next, my goals are and have been to work to bring industry, and the right kind of growth to our county, lead our youth, protect our Senior population, broaden our infrastructure, and provide the resources needed to meet the needs in our school system in providing the best education possible for our youth. Also, to continue the one-to-one program that we as Commissioners committed to several years ago, where each student would have a computer for their school needs. Also, to continue expanding the trail systems in the county without putting a big tax burden on our citizens.

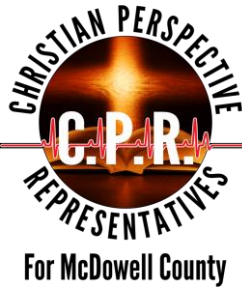
I will continue to push to provide the trade and vocational classes in our schools which is very vital to our nation as a whole.

I will continue to promote industry in our county by exploring ways to draw the interest of these jobs to the public. We have an issue in our county filling the vacancies that are available. There are over 300 manufacturing jobs unfilled based on my last survey report I received.

I believe the parents should always have a say in the education of our children. Sex education should be taught in the homes by parents, and not teachers. I also think racial equality should be taught in our homes, as well as showing respect to others, instead of bullying. The school system should make students aware of the risk of cyber security, and recognize mental health issues among the students.

My faith guides me in all my daily decisions, and also the decisions I make as a County Commissioner. CRP's presence at our Board meetings would be appreciated to help show the strength of the Christian faith in our county, and the desire to keep McDowell County a place worthy of raising our children, which are not only our future, but our present.

I am a Christian, saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, a member of Gideons International, and an active member of Zion Hill Baptist Church.



Heather Edwards (Did not respond)

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Lynn Greene

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1) Why have you chosen to become a candidate for the McDowell Board of Commissioners? Is there a particular issue that has motivated you in this decision?

First of all, I feel that there should be term limits for local offices just the same as we would like to see at the State and Federal levels.

Second. It is my opinion that we have spent far too much tax payer money on ventures that do not benefit the tax paying public. One example of this is a housing development on Hwy 70 East that the county has promised \$200,000 to a private venture with no guarantee of return of tax payer money.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

1. DSS has been in a building that is substandard for years. We need to be looking at the next step to improve working conditions for these folks. At the same time, the direction of DSS for the future should be evaluated and changes made to improve overall management strategies.

2. Property Tax. Currently the property owners in the county are paying the bill for the services which are enjoyed by everyone. People who live and work here and are raising families here but do not own property pay nothing in the way of property tax to help offset that burden. If we were to increase our sales tax by 1/4 of a penny, every visitor who comes through our county buying gas, food, clothing, or spending money otherwise in our county would generate much more revenue than the general property tax and thus make it possible to lower the burden on property owners.

3) Commissioners have oversight of the academic programs offered in both K12 schools and MTCC, what changes if any would you recommend?

I'm not sure that I completely understand this question. I also served on the McDowell County Board of Education. The Board of Commissioners is tasked with funding the various agencies and departments in the county, such as the School System, but I'm not sure what is meant by oversight of academic programs. The curriculum is primarily handed down by the State and is then administered by the local Board of Education. With that being said, I do not think that the Board of Commissioners should support programs that go against good moral ideas and should push back against every effort to



indoctrinate our children with views and ideas that do not meet healthy and wholesome growth.

4) What issues do you believe need to be addressed pertaining to Industry and job opportunities in McDowell County?

As for job opportunities, most businesses in our county have "We're Hiring" signs up. It is my opinion that we (America) have hurt ourselves by paying people not to work. Why would anyone want to work when they are being paid enough to stay home and not work.

I would like to visit counties like Burke and Catawba and see what programs they have in place for inviting industry.

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system works?

Parents should always been granted an open door to understand what their children are being taught. When parents attend local Board of Education meetings and want to make a public comment they are given three (3) minutes for their comment. They may have questions which deserve honest answers but it is the policy and practice of the Board to not make comments regarding the public comment. The parent or individual deserves to be heard and answers given whenever possible. It may be that it is simply a direction of who to make an appointment with to find those answers but if we are going to be transparent then we need to be open and honest in the eye of the public.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

As a parent I have been confronted with having to sit down with a school principal and teacher because my child was singled out because they did not want to participate in a discussion in class that went against what they were being taught at home. The teacher embarrassed them in front of the class and threatened them with failing. The subject was very controversial. We have some of the very best teachers in McDowell County but we also have some that push their own political and moral views without regard for the right of the parent to say whether or not they would want it taught to their child.



7) What is your opinion concerning the role of public schools in educating children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

The sad part about this question is that many of our children have no one at home to teach them. It has been left to the Schools to raise our children which is sad. However, I think we have come to the place in our society which the idea of "anything goes" has entered our educational system. I have had conversations with our administrators and feel that our current leadership in McDowell County for the most part holds the same moral values as most of our citizens.

To answer the question of racial equity, I have yet to be told of any person or child that has been denied access to any program, whether educational or otherwise, because of their race.

8) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for our county?

I have always based my decisions on what I believe to be right. I pray about my decisions and make decisions that I feel will benefit all the citizens of our county equally. Just because someone may have a different religious view than myself should not mean that they are denied the same rights as everyone else.

I do not "campaign" as some might think I should. I have always said that I will leave it up to God.

When a person runs for public office they are representing their respective party (Republican, Democrat, Independent etc.). Once elected, you represent every citizen regardless of party.

9) If elected, how can CPR of McDowell County support you as a member of the board of commissioners?

Pray for whoever is elected. James 5:16 "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much". If people who are true christians will pray and vote true change can be found.

10) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

When I previously served on the Board of Commissioners we had to raise the property tax rate in order to fund the renovations to the Courthouse. I was part of that decision.



We also made it known that it was our intention to reevaluate the tax rate and lower it again if possible. It is my opinion that we should place the sales tax increase on the ballot again which did not pass in the last election. The 1/4% increase (that is 1/4 of a cent) would generate much more revenue for our school system, EMS, Fire Departments, etc. than the property tax increase. Additionally, every sale in McDowell County made by visitors to our county would be to the benefit of our county. Currently, it is the property owners who are paying for the services that everyone enjoys. To me, this is not a fair system of generating revenue. We need that 1/4 cent increase. Current laws restrict the County Board of Commissioners from using tax dollars for education and promotion of the idea of a sales tax increase. I will use my own time and moeny, if elected, to promote this idea.



Robert Toney McCall

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1) Why have you chosen to become a candidate for the McDowell Board of Commissioners? Is there a particular issue that has motivated you in this decision?

I chose to become a candidate for the McDowell County Board of Commissioners because I believe that the current County Commissioners are out of touch with the Citizens, and Future of McDowell County.

The issues that have motivated me are: Transparency, does not exist, Spending, is out of control. The County is going in a haphazard direction, with no focus or plan for the future. It appears that they are in the business of buying Real Estate. I don't think the Citizens tax dollars should be used to purchase Real Estate. The recommended 2021-2022 budget was \$49,728,636. The Citizens are entitled to a detail accounting on where this money was spent.

I am very concerned with the County Debt. The County debt is \$15,635,080.33! That is very worrisome.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

My highest priorities are all of the Citizens of McDowell County (security and well being of the citizens). Eradicating poverty, Crime and Substance abuse, Health Care, Our Seniors, Children and Education.

3) Commissioners have oversight of the academic programs offered in both K12 schools and MTCC, what changes if any would you recommend?

I would recommend a change to INCREASE programs that provide students with skills and knowledge for careers in industry such as the Construction Trades, and Health Care. I would also recommend that we teach The three Rs, are three basic skills that should be taught in schools: Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. They haven't failed us thus far, so let's go to a proven method that works.

4) What issues do you believe need to be addressed pertaining to Industry and job opportunities in McDowell County?



I believe that McDowell County should welcome multiple Industries. The Smart Asset survey recently released its seventh annual study of the top 10 places in North Carolina for people to retire. I believe we, the County should focus on bringing Senior Retirement Living to the McDowell County. Bringing Senior Living Centers would have a domino effect, by increasing Jobs , Retail, Health Care, Service job's as well as Construction Job's. McDowell County has Multiply Health Care services, and industry such as Baxters. The Manufacturing Industry and Senior Living Centers/Health Care would be a better fit for the County.

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system works?

I believe that parents should play a Major Role and have significant input in all aspects of Education and Policies in the school system.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

A: Students: My view is that students have the right to an education as long as the student abides by the policies of the school system to include Accountability.

B: Parents: Parents have the right to mentor , monitor , and control what their children are exposed to.

C: Teachers: I believe a teacher is a mentor, learner, advisor, caring person charged in the teaching process providing a nurturing environment in the classroom. I Believe parents , not the government, have the fundamental right to make decisions concerning the Learning environment's and care of their children.

7) What is your opinion concerning the role of public schools in educating children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

A: Sex Education:

Sex Education as to the relationship between a man, and a women should totally be at the discretion of the Parents. Some parents may choose to teach their child at home, and some may want the school to teach their child. I think there should be an established age to provide this training.



B: Cyber-Safety:

I Think Cyber-Safety should be a discussion between the County Commissioner's and the School Board to establish an approved Course for the classrooms.

I believe the teaching of Cyber-Safety starts at home, the Parents need to set standards for their child (what can, and cannot be done online) The Parents need to teach their child to keep personal information private, and how to safely use Social Networking sites.

I think the school should also have an established, and approved course. I believe that every child needs to be educated about Cyber-Safety, they need to be aware of the basic guidelines for safe on line use, it will help reduce the likelihood of them entering into unsafe situations.

C: Mental Health:

I believe the school system should only provide mental health services only with prior approval of the parents or the custodial authority. This type of service should be provided by a licensed professional.

D: Bullying:

I believe in a no tolerance Policy. Stop kicking the can down the road. I don't think we should be moving the "bully" around to a different Classroom or to a different teacher. That does nothing to change the behavior of a bully.

E: Racial Equality:

I believe that all, men, women and children are created equal. Everyone deserves dignity, respect, and deserves the opportunity to pursue their dreams for a Prosperous life.

8) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for our county?

My faith Helps guide me in life's decisions through Honesty, Integrity and Fairness. However faith may not be the guiding factor to all issues in the County. Some issues need a Business approach .

9) If elected, how can CPR of McDowell County support you as a member of the board of commissioners?



CPR for McDowell can Continue Supporting Biblical Values and Constitutional Rights, By supporting the honest endeavors of the County Commissioner's, and the McDowell County Citizens. Not only supporting, but by being a part of the process with input to the Commissioners who make decisions. Putting the Peoples well being above all else. CPR can also be a driving force in selecting effective Commissioner's in the future. We need people in Leadership positions to be accountable. Performance Counts.

10) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

My name is Robert Toney McCall I am a Resident of North Cove, North Carolina. I have been married to my Wife for 52 years. We have two children Tony and Stacy, 5 Grand Children and 1 Great Grand Daughter. We love our Community, and County.

We want the best for all of the Citizen of McDowell County, and their Children. We believe the Children are our legacy. We believe our Seniors are our best assets, with wisdom and knowledge that guide's our future.

I will strive to represent all of the people of McDowell County by making decision in an Honest and Fair way.

Our County has not changed to any extent in the past 50 years. I would like to see the County move forward. Bring in better high paying jobs. I would like to see higher end Businesses come to the County, however we need to make preparation's to support such entities.

What do we want the County to look like in 20 years? We need to install the infrastructure required to support future growth. Water, Sewer, Electric ,Communication, and Roads. We need to establish a Working Master Plan. Establish a Focus for the County, Industry is a broad term, lets define what Industry we want Mcdowell to look like and focus on it. Build on what we already have. Define our Goals and work as a team to accomplish those Goals.

Let's listen to our Church Leaders, we need to be inclusive, for if you can't love your brother and sister then you can't love God. Remember, don't let you babies grow up to be strangers. Without progress in the County we lose our youth year after year to other Towns, and Cities as they seek a better life outside of McDowell County.



Phillip Price (Did not respond)

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Mike Seay

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- 1) Why have you chosen to become a candidate for the McDowell Board of Commissioners? Is there a particular issue that has motivated you in this decision?**

I am motivated by just being a McDowell County Citizen, I want to keep taxes low, create productive and well paying jobs for our residents. I have fresh ideas. I feel the pool of Commissioners have become stagnate. I want to be a part of our Commissioners so that I can be a tool to be use in making a difference in all aspects of our County. We need new fresh ideas, there doesn't need to be "a good ole boy system". We don't need to make decisions on things prior to hearing the public comments or ideas of what is important to them. I feel there are too many back door decisions being made without conversation and serious thought.

- 2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?**

To keep taxes low.

Listen to the needs and desires of the people.

I don't want to forget where I come from, this to me is not a position of gesture or fame. It is to make a difference and to help our community be better all around.

- 3) Commissioners have oversight of the academic programs offered in both K12 schools and MTCC, what changes if any would you recommend?**

To be honest:

I am not familiar with all of the academic programs in the schools. I am going to have to learn all of the programs before I can answer this question.

- 4) What issues do you believe need to be addressed pertaining to Industry and job opportunities in McDowell County?**

There needs to be more incentives for Companies to want to come to McDowell. Times are hard and industries need to be helped along the way with possibly tax, water, or some incentives that would be inviting to them.



5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system works?

Extremely important that parents be involved in their children's education. I think sometimes the parents use the school system for a babysitter and have no involvement, parents should be accountable.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

I would like to see less of whatever goes - "goes". We live in a society that teachers do not want to teach because the children have no respect. Children are not being taught "please & thank you". It would be wonderful if there were grants for Christian parents that are not able to afford their children a place in a Christian school to be able to make that choice without not having the funds. It is sad that our children in the community are not getting an education of what should be taught at home. I understand that homework is hard for some parents that do not have an education, that also would be wonderful if parents could be taught to also to maybe learn along with the child if they desired.

7) What is your opinion concerning the role of public schools in educating children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

I could probably get into hot water of this topic. First of all Sex Education needs to be taught at home not in a public school. A boy is a boy and a girl is a girl you can't change your DNA. Our children have enough issues to overcome, we don't need to confuse them any more. Bullying starts at home too. We do only what we are taught, I think that it should never be tolerated in any circumstance. We are human there should not be any tolerance for racial issues either. Kids don't know the difference in color they just know kids are kids- if adults didn't make such an issue about race then there might not be such a problem.

8) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for our county?

My faith guides everything in my life. It would be the same daily, I pray about every aspect of my life. I would not change anything about my prayer life with the Lord, all decisions would be based on him. I am a patient person also, therefore; if I were to have to give an immediate response, I believe I would base my decisions on my Christian upbringing and knowledge of "right from wrong".



9) If elected, how can CPR of McDowell County support you as a member of the board of commissioners?

I would ask for your prayers daily- for wisdom, knowledge and guidance. I know our Nation has become out of sorts, it is everywhere. Without our Lord we have nothing. Prayer is the best gift anyone has ever given me. An, to not be alone during this new venture would be my only request. I can't do it alone.

10) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

It is my honor and privilege to answer these questions. I am genuine. I may not know the answers to every single thing, but I do know I have a friend to fall back on. I won't give fake answers or make promises I can't keep. I am not a politician, I just want to help in some small form or fashion. If I am not elected, that is okay too. I will never be disappointed in Gods Will regardless of the results. Thank you .



Brenda Morgan Vaughn

Brenda.Vaughn@mcdowellgov.com

- 1) Why have you chosen to become a candidate for the McDowell Board of Commissioners? Is there a particular issue that has motivated you in this decision?**

There are things that are very important to me. One of the most important of these things is the County in which I live. I chose to spend most of the years of my adult life in service to the citizens of McDowell County and after retiring - I believed there was still a need and I had a very strong desire not to ease away in retirement but to remain in service to this county in some capacity. Being a County Commissioner is a position of service. A position on a team that needs to make good solid honest decisions for our county. A position that should be held by someone with a desire to be honest, have strong integrity, care deeply about everyone from the youth to the most senior citizen. To me someone with a desire to make decisions based on moral values with out bias. That is what I strive to do each day of my service as a McDowell County Commissioner

- 2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?**

Broadband expansion to the hard to reach areas. Water and Sewer Access Expansion. Drug Addition and Mental Health There are so many needs but the four listed stick out in my mind.

- 3) Commissioners have oversight of the academic programs offered in both K12 schools and MTCC, what changes if any would you recommend?**

More parent involvement. Programs that involve both the teachers and the parents in some effort to educate both the parent and the child about what is being taught and why.

- 4) What issues do you believe need to be addressed pertaining to Industry and job opportunities in McDowell County?**

Workforce training to assure we have adequate personal ready to support industry.

- 5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system works?**



Parents need to be encouraged to get involved, Involved in academics, sports, and all aspects of their children's education.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

First and foremost I feel a parent has the right to know what is being taught and have a say in these things, teachers should be fairly treated, they themselves do not chose nor set the structure or guidelines of the curriculum. Students should be taught to respect the teachers and school staff and follow the guidelines set forth by a joint team. The team being Parents, Teachers, School Superintendent and so forth.

7) What is your opinion concerning the role of public schools in educating children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

All of those subjects should addressed both at home and through school. I do not believe teachers have enough time in the day to handle everything. Teaching and training minds in the navigation of academics for success should be a teachers main focus. Parents should train their children how negative bullying can be to both the person bullying and the person being bullied, fair treatment of all people regardless of their social status, nationality, race, or by any other means division can be established- we would have a much better world. Teachers are caught in the middle of such things as bullying I know and they must do the best that can to intervein in such. I am appreciative of their efforts and encourage them to not impress personal views but to teach in such a way as to create a unified body.

Sex education should begin at home, there are instances I know that this might not be happening and would necessitate some form of school involvement. However this should be by all means no sooner than middle school, or the high school level.

Mental Health must in all cases be handled by professional staff. Untrained personal could in a lot of cases add to the issue and not help. Teachers are in a perfect position to recognize need and establish direction or bring attention to the correct avenue to get such students the proper help. I don't think we can put any more on the teaching staff than they are already burdened with. Their duty is not easy nor do they have unlimited time and access to unlimited resources to address every need of every student. They try... But they are one teacher to many students.

Cyber-safety is an area that is best taught in a school setting. Taught and then should be monitored by both parental guidance and education. Education must continue as the



cyber world is a continual changing arena. Most have heard the term DARK WEB but few fully understand the dangers that are a real and present danger there.

8) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for our county?

My strong faith in God and salvation through Jesus Christ guide me daily in everything I do and everything I have a decision in. This will not change.

9) If elected, how can CPR of McDowell County support you as a member of the board of commissioners?

First and foremost through prayer. I do also feel CPR can be a strong force in the guidelines of what children are being exposed to and taught. I believe children should be allowed to be children and not be troubled at an early age with things that are best left as they are older. CPR can certainly have a strong voice in advocating correct guidelines for what is true and just. I appreciate the group of citizens and churches that have stepped forward to begin this journey on involvement in government and county guidance.

10) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

I have enjoyed serving our county as a commissioner and I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to continue in service to McDowell County in this capacity. I will stand strong for our county, I will stand strong for industry that affords the best pay and life style possible for all citizens of our county. I will serve McDowell County with the best of my ability and with morals and integrity.

Thank you for the opportunity to express myself and my views as well as my desire to continue in service as a McDowell County Commissioner.

Sincerely,
Brenda Morgan Vaughn



David Walker

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1) Why have you chosen to become a candidate for the McDowell Board of Commissioners? Is there a particular issue that has motivated you in this decision?

There are Many Reasons why I decided to seek the Office of A McDowell County Commissioner. I have always had a desire to help others. As a Commissioner. We have the opportunity to help many people. Economic Development and the Retention and Recruitment of Industry is a Priority for me. As a Commissioner, we offer Economic Incentives to companies to come and provide jobs for the people of our County. The Economic Incentives are given based on Job Creation and the Investment in Machinery and Equipment. It is very competitive when it comes to attracting New Industry to our County and its my goal to bring new, good paying jobs to our County. Education is very important to me. As a Commissioner, I am proud to say that we have Partnered with the School System in Many ways. We have given money to raise the Teacher Supplements over a 4 year period. As a Commissioner, we funded the One to One Computer program which helped get laptops to all.our Students. This was very important when we faced the Covid Pandemic and the students had to do Virtual Learning. We also approved the Funding for the new Old Fort Elementary School. As a Conservative Christian, I Voted for a Resolution stating that Marriage is between a Man and a Woman. I Also Voted to have In God We Trust put on all our County Buildings and Vehicles. I also Voted for A Resolution patterned after the Texas Heartbeat Bill. I also am a firm believer in our 2nd Ammendment rights and have Voted to Protect those in Resolution form. I also wanted to provide opportunities for our kids to be able to have quality Recreation programs and facilities. We are currently working on a New Feild for our Recreation Center. We are also looking at a new Pool and other Park Areas. I also Voted to extend Greenways and Trails. That is a few of the many reasons I Decided to seek Re-Election to the Board of Commissioners.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

Economic Recruitment and Retention, supporting our McDowell County School System and McDowell Technical Community College, Maitaining a Low Property Tax Rate, Completing Recreation Projects including a New Pool and Feilds at the Recreation Center on Marion. Completing the McDowell County Shooting Range. The Extention of



Water Lines. Completion of a Pay Scale Study for County Employees. To work with Partners on Trail Extensions.

3) Commissioners have oversight of the academic programs offered in both K12 schools and MTCC, what changes if any would you recommend?

I fully Support the Local School Board to be able to have control over determine and setting the School calender. I am Opposed to The Critical Race Theory being taught to our kids. I believe that parents should have more opportunities for input in their child's education.

4) What issues do you believe need to be addressed pertaining to Industry and job opportunities in McDowell County?

The Biggest Problem that Employers face is Job Recruitment and Job Retention. I fully support training programs and McDowell Technical Community College as they work along side Employers to provide the training programs that are needed. As a Commissioner we work with our Economic Development Director to help Recruit Industry to our County. Job Creation is essential to maintaining a low Unemployment rate. We offer the Universal building for lease to Industry at a lower rate to help attract Industry.

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system works?

I am a Firm Believer in open Communication between The School System and Parents. I would encourage Parents to attend all Parent Teacher Conferences. By doing this, Parents can communicate concerns and give suggestions to Staff. I would also say that Parents should attend School Board meetings and give input.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

As a parent of 3 kids in the McDowell County School System, I want my kids to be taught Math. Science, History, Reading, and Writing. As a Commissioner, we meet monthly with the Collge President and 2 Trustees and The McDowell Counry Schools Supertindent and 2 School Board Members. We are able to share concerns, goals and priorities in regard to Educational Programs.



7) What is your opinion concerning the role of public schools in educating children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

I believe that Parents should be able to review what would be taught in a Sex Education class before they child would attend the class. If they do not approve and the class teaches values that are not consistent with their values, the child should not be required to attend. Young children should not be taught ideas that are not in line with their Christian beliefs. I regard to cybersafety, mental health, and bullying, Parents should review the circullum and voice concerns to School officials and School Board members if they see a issue with what is being taught. In regard to Racial Equity, all people regardless of skin color are important and equal in the eyes of God. I do not support circullum that teaches that one race is inferior to another race. Schools are not a place to teach a child that because if skin color you are inferior to others. So therefore, I am opposed to The Critical Race theroy being taught in Public Schools. Teach a young person to work hard, study hard and that you can achieve great things if you set goals and don't ever give up. Education should inspire children, and not be a place to teach the newest social ideas of the day!

8) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for our county?

As a Christian, my faith is the foundation of my life!! In every descion I make, it's important to pray and seek God's guidance. I will always stand on the Principles that are taught in God's word!!!

9) If elected, how can CPR of McDowell County support you as a member of the board of commissioners?

CPR of McDowell can support me as a Commissioner by praying for me. You can also help by letting me know what your groups needs and priorities are so as a elected official, I can support your efforts.

10)Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

I am a member of Zion Hill Baptist Church and teach a Sunday School Class and am the Youth Choir Director and Youth Director.



Board of Education



Glenwood District

Terry Frank

Email address not available

1) Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you?

The McDowell County Schools Board of Education has made some significant progress for our school system, especially the past eight years. Our schools have made substantial growth and we currently do not have a single low performing school in our whole system. Look where we were in 2014. I especially challenge you to look at where McDowell High School was then where it is ranked on the state level today. Compare the drop out rates then and now. Look at the growth and opportunities in our CTE courses. A total of 85 courses at this time. Do our students have more choices now for marketable skills and future further education? The answer is of course, "Yes". We now have four high school options; (1) MHS, (2) McDowell Early College, (3) McDowell Academy for Innovation, and (4) the Virtual Academy. It's truly a great time to be in the McDowell County Schools. This trickles down into the lower grades as well including FREE Pre "K" for all McDowell County's children. This is all brought about when a collaborative board hires a Superintendent they trust and allow him to do his job without unnecessary influence from Board Members, the Public and Political affiliates. I want to continue serving on such a board because I see great things for our most important asset, our children, as well as our staff and all support personnel.

There is a particular issue that motivates me. CHILDREN! The North Star for our concentration should be our children first and foremost. I am a firm believer that if your not running and serving for our children you are in it for the wrong reason. When you do the right thing for children everything else falls in place.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

Making sure our children are **First** will always be my top priority. Trying to insure our staff has the tools they need and trying to be an advocate for salary increases is also very important. I want every child to have an opportunity to graduate and be ready to seek the next step in their career path regardless of what it may be. Making them feel



safe in their environment in our schools as well as receiving the nurturing and encouragement they so desperately need also plays a big part in this success.

3) What issues do you believe need to be addressed in academic programs and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

There are issues with academic programs because of the state calendar law. When school can start and when it has to end. This should be left up to local boards to decide. If we could align our calendars with the local community college's schedule, it would help with testing around Christmas break and give more students opportunities to get additional college credits. I think we should continue to stay abreast of changing job markets for our career tech path students and offer the courses that will help those students to be successful in their futures. We need to stay on top of programs that help our elementary children be successful readers. Children who struggle with reading, struggle with school success their whole time in school. We have great leaders in our system that we need to challenge to find ways to help our children to grow academically at the earliest levels. We are not there yet, but our system is making great strides toward getting better in every aspect of education. Our teachers are innovative, motivated and strive for perfection. All one has to do is research what other LEAs are saying about McDowell County Schools. We are a leader in this state and folks are taking note of such. The future success of our children depends on the board, superintendent, staff and all support personnel to help prepare our children academically.

4) What is the role of schools in teaching children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

All of these topics are subjective! Each and every person has an opinion as to what they think is the correct answer to all four of these topics. There are federal and state laws as well as policies, which limit the board's ability to develop its own policies on these issues. We can and do implement policies we feel need to be tailored to our own system. We are continually striving to set policy that is fair, more appropriate for our system and our moral obligations.

My personal views are as follows on each topic. First and foremost this is just my view and does not reflect on any other board member's or other candidate's opinion or thoughts.



- a. **Sex education**-First off, Sex Education is required by N. C. state law to be taught to students in grades 7 – 9. The course must be medically accurate that includes instruction on abstinence, contraceptives, STD prevention and sexual assault. The “Healthy Youth Act” was passed in 2009. McDowell County Schools Policy 3540, B ***Parental Opportunities To Review Materials and Withhold Consent For Student Participation*** also gives parents the option to opt out of this course of instruction and it also gives the parents an opportunity to review the material being covered. I support both the state law and McDowell County Schools policy 3540. If parents choose not to let their children participate then it’s their choice. I believe in choices. Personally, I hope children are either taught abstinence by their parents or schoolteachers and it is reinforced at home and their Christian environment. Premarital sex should be avoided and students should be taught at home, the value in waiting until you are married to have sex with your spouse. My personal thoughts.
- b. **Cyber – safety**- Schools should definitely make students aware of cyber safety. With the ever prevalent possibilities of personal attacks as well as group attacks, every child should be made aware of the dangers as well as consequences for involvement in such activities. They should also have discussions with their parents about cyber safety and encourage them to be mindful and set a good example for children to follow. This topic is becoming more and more a threat to our students, schools and communities.
- c. **Mental Health**- A staggering problem that the school system has to constantly stay abreast and address on a reoccurring basis. We need more help for our students and staff too. This is much more prevalent today than it has been in the history of our school system. We have to find the help and address this issue. It isn’t going away and is very obvious the affects it has on society today.
- d. **Bullying**- Bullying in any shape form or fashion should not be tolerated in our school system. This includes bullying of students and the bullying of staff by students or administration. We have good policies in place to address this and they need strict adherence by staff to enforce and prevent bullying.
- e. **Racial Equity**- We as a board are currently working on this topic to find the right policy and training to fit our school system. Whatever is needed to ensure a safe environment and equality to all races in our school system **we have to provide**. I reiterate, all races!

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system operates?



I feel parents should take an active role in their children's education by becoming actively involved in the school system. Volunteer in the schools, go to parent conferences, and contact your child's teachers and principal. Support all school activities including PTO and after hours activities. There are a lot of things parents can get involved with to help their children and the school system. One of the most important things you can do is help them at home with homework, reading and other projects. **GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHILD!**

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

Our system is only as good as the people who make up the system. It takes involvement by students, parents and teachers for the system to work and be successful. Everyone needs input and I encourage you to exercise your rights, and get involved. Don't just set back and complain, give suggestions and advice how to make the system good for all, not just a special group or an individual.

7) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for the school system?

I have had a strong commitment to Jesus Christ long before I became a school board member. My faith has not waivered; I am still a member and **attend** Glenwood Baptist Church. I teach Sunday school I pay my tithe to support the work of Christ. I support the Good News Clubs in our schools. I mentor in our schools, I help with any project or event I am asked to help with. When I do these things, I try to stay positive and set an example that people can see a light for Christ in me. I am not changing, that is me, I stand up for children and that's my reason for being on this board. If I don't make children my top priority and help to put leaders in the school system that have that same value, I need to get out. I did not come on the board with an agenda or personal gain. I want our system to be the best in North Carolina and the Nation.

8) If elected, how can CPR for McDowell County support you as a member of the Board of Education and McDowell County Schools?

I have been involved in previous incidences where I have needed and have called on the **Faith Based Community of our county** for assistance to help resolve Christian issues. I hope I can count on **CPR** to have my back when legitimate concerns arise and I need someone to talk to or get advice and help from. I am very impressed with



Preacher Edwards and several others in this county including my own preacher who know me and know what I stand for. I don't need you when I am on the mountaintop; I need you when I am standing all alone in the valley or as David hiding out in a cave. I love you all as brothers in Christ.

9) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

Yes, before you try to judge me or try to jump to conclusions about where I stand on an issue, ask me and talk to fellow Christians I associate and go to church with.



Lisa Morgan

lisamorgan63@yahoo.com

1) Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you?

I feel like now more than ever the kids, teachers and schools need a strong presentative who will stand up in support for the integrity of the educational process. I will stand for what is best for the children and not any political agendas. Being present in the schools and community to assist with continuing the amazing school system and provide every opportunity to further develop a greater learning environment.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

If elected, my highest priorities will be the children and a safe learning environment. I feel the position of school board members is to be the liaison between with school system and the community, with transparency and open dialog.

3) What issues do you believe need to be addressed in academic programs and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

I believe academic programs should be taught at age appropriate context and should never create division or conflict between the children. The educational environment should welcome learning for all children equally, without exception. I don't think that I am at a place to recommend any changes at this point. However, once in the position I would not seek to just follow the group decision but would base my decisions on what is best for the children.

4) What is the role of schools in teaching children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

I feel that learning and developing character and belief should begin at home; however, I am well aware that a lot of children do not get that opportunity because parent's work life and obligations. With that being said, I do believe schools should support that development and continue to build character and social interactions. I feel learning begins at home but can be advanced through appropriate textbook learning based on science and theology.

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system operates?



I feel parents should be able to have an open dialog with the schools system, members of the school board and information exchanged equally. Final decisions made the school system should take into consideration what is best for the children, the teachers, the parents and the community as a whole.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

Beyond what is best for the children, I do not believe that one component of this environment holds greater value than the other. Each have rights that should be respected and considered with the educational system.

7) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for the school system?

As with any decision made, Faith will guide my decisions as I consider what is best for the children. My decisions will not be based on any political affiliation/interest, only what is best for the children.

8) If elected, how can CPR for McDowell County support you as a member of the Board of Education and McDowell County Schools?

CPR as well as all other entities within our community can support the School Board and County Schools through their willingness to be present and having the open and transparent dialog needed to make the best decisions possible for all involved, especially the children.

9) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

If elected, I will be a Present member of the School Board and will be available for open communication. I will support the children, teacher, all schools and community with the upmost integrity and professionalism.



Michelle Price (Did not respond)

pricenc11@gmail.com



Marion District

Angela Allen-Helms (Did not respond)

angrall7@aol.com



Greg Barksdale

greg.barksdale@mcdowell.k12.nc.us

1) Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you?

McDowell County School system functions like a family, full of heart, and love for our children. I want to support the superintendent, staff and teachers in the progress and success our district has achieved over the past eight years. I am excited about the direction the district is headed, with a strong focus on school attendance, family/community engagement, and preparing students for their future. It is important to me that we keep the education, safety and well-being of each student at the forefront of our decisions. It is also important to protect our children from the groups that want to physically change our children to their distorted ways of thinking. It is the school boards job to stand up and say, "no this is not what our community wants". The children are our future. And as long as I am on the board I will reject the radical groups that are trying to corrupt our future leaders.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

Alone, I cannot accomplish anything. McDowell county has nine school board members who should be working together, with the superintendent, to accomplish goals and the desires of the district. Yes, school boards have great power, but ultimately, its members are not the ones "in the trenches" working daily to improve and educate students. That is the superintendent's, staff and teachers' jobs. We have a superintendent and teachers that has turned McDowell County Schools into a roll model for the state of North Carolina. The school board's job is to provide the superintendent direction and let him do his job and run the district. I do not have individual goals because the nine members of the board have to put aside his or her individual goals and work as a team for the betterment of our students. But, over the past few years our way of life is under assault from groups that feel that they should push their way of thinking onto our most vulnerable groups in our society, our children. I am not talking about just high school or college age children - I am talking about toddlers up through all levels of higher education. There are groups that have highjacked our political parties, our local government, and now they have discovered the one place that they know they will have the biggest impact - our school boards. These groups are telling us that their contorted theories are the new way of thinking. This is why we have to be so careful of who we choose to place on the school boards. Changing the way our most impressionable think will change the way our future will unfold. So, if elected, I pledge to work with all other board members and allow the superintendent to improve our district in any and all ways possible. We need to see that the supports students need to succeed are in place and



see that students have the stability in their life to succeed. But I will not allow our teachers or outside groups to indoctrinate our students. Some of the priorities that I would like to see addressed by the board are as follows: 1) to enable parents to remain involved or become involved in decisions that determine the direction the school system is moving. 2) to prepare students not only for university or community college, but also make sure that students are taught vocational skills. 3) to make sure that our school district maintains complete transparency in the school curriculum.

3) What issues do you believe need to be addressed in academic programs and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

- Teach skills for academic success, including organization and time management.
- Embed tutorials in the learning process.
- Build strong student-teacher relationships.
- Create a positive peer group for students and encourage collaboration.
- The expectation by teachers should be that most students should go to college but understand that not all students want to go to college, and in today's world, having the opportunity for learning a vocational skill can prove to be more fruitful for some students.
- Develop strong teams so that all students can participate and feel good about themselves.
- Strong focus needs to occur with the foundations of reading, writing, math, science and history, with the removal of politics from the classroom.

4) What is the role of schools in teaching children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

- I. Sex education in the school system has its place at the appropriate age. There are a large number of students whose families do not teach their children about sex education and this can lead to sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies. I do not believe that any student should receive instruction on sexual preference and gender identity - related questions or other radical political



theories that are attempting to indoctrinate our children. This is the role of the parents, churches or guardians. When I was teaching in McDowell County School System, if I had pushed these agendas I would have been fired.

- II. Cyber-safety If you are referring to in-person learning, McDowell School System has reliable protection for our students that restricts students from accessing harmful content, while also protecting them from a wide range of threats such as malware, porn or unmoderated social media. The problem starts at home when parents fail to put restrictions on their children's computers.
- III. Mental Health: mental health is so important, and now, more than ever, children need the support of school counselors.
- IV. Bullying: Policies are in place in the school system to protect children from bullying. Bullying will not be tolerated! Critical Race Theory and such teachings increase bullying because of the "oppressed/oppressor" mentality.
- V. Addressing racial equity, first we should remove the word equity and replace it with the word that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used - **equality**. The meaning of equity when used in this context is that an outside group or government will determine what is fair due to history. Equality means everyone will be given an equal chance to achieve their goals,

Example:

Equality: The teacher has ten apples on the table in front of the class. The teacher gives five apples to John and five apples to Tim. The teacher has given each student five apples to use as they see fit.

Equity: The teacher has ten apples on the table in front of the class. The teacher gives John two apples and gives eight apples to Tim. John ask the teacher, "why did I only receive two apples?" The teacher explains to John that his great, great, great grandfather had an apple tree so it would be unfair for him to get the same number of apples as Tim. She explained that he is a privileged person because of his ancestry.

Having equal opportunity and what that student and parents do with that opportunity is in their hands. People who push the word equity into racial discussion are mostly concerned with one small sub group and do not think about all races. Example: how many times have you heard Native Americans, or Japanese Americans, Italian Americans and on and on. Throughout our history, and to this day, all skin colors and men and women have at some time been



treated unfairly because of their economic status or the history of their families. The only way to be fair is to provide everyone in our school system and our society with equal opportunities. It is up to the student and their family to take advantage of that opportunity - whether moving on to higher education or to obtaining a vocation certification - to achieve their goals. No one can be forced to succeed without their will to succeed. And no student benefits from being taught that one group of people are oppressed and another group is the oppressor. We should foster a positive learning environment for all students where unification and collaboration are facilitated.

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system operates?

What is the most accurate predictor of academic achievement? It's not socioeconomic status, nor how prestigious the school is that a child attends. The best predictor of student success is the extent to which families encourage learning at home and involve themselves in their child's education.

When parents are engaged in their children's school lives, students have the home support and the knowledge they need to complete their assignments. Parents should be encouraged to collaborate with teachers and advise and guide them through academic support of that child.

Parents should use caution when voting for a board member and make sure that the person who is running for a school board seat is not there for an ulterior motive. That person should be running because they want the very best education for the children. We are not there to be perceived as champions, martyrs or heroes on behalf of any individual. We are there to make sure that the education of our children, the future of our community and country, are the number one priority. We have no power over the staff or the teachers, nor can we make changes in teachers' wages. That solely falls to the North Carolina State Senate and House to make changes in teachers' wages. So if someone running for school board is claiming that s/he will get teachers raises, this is not possible. We cannot solve problems within the schools, except through providing the superintendent with the information he needs to make the decisions regarding all operations of the school system. All a good board member can do is listen and pass the information on to the superintendent, and he is responsible for making the decisions and changes. If the superintendent is failing to make the changes that have been advised by the board, then the superintendent can be terminated by the board.

If you hear a board member use the word "I" you should be very suspicious. We are a board of nine and one member has zero power to promise or do anything.



6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

Students have the right to be provided with respect from their teachers and peers and an equal opportunity for learning. Students have the right to be taught academic subjects in preparation for transition to higher learning, not indoctrinated in any political agenda. Parents should have the right to respectfully question a teacher's methods or subject matter. They should be able to engage in a positive way in their children's education and advise their children's teachers. Teachers have the right to do what they have been trained to do and be fulfilled in that role. They deserve to earn a wage that is fair for the extremely important role that they play in our country's future. They deserve our respect and our support.

7) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for the school system?

My Grandmother shared Proverbs 22:6 when I had my twin girls: Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. Prayer will guide me in my decision making, as it always has.

8) If elected, how can CPR for McDowell County support you as a member of the Board of Education and McDowell County Schools?

Have someone at the board meeting to watch and listen. Don't be fooled by words. Judge board members by their actions and their professionalism in the boardroom. Pray for us as we advise the superintendent so that he can make the best decisions for the education of our children.

9) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

No answer.



Nebo District

Chuck Abernathy

cabernathy994@gmail.com

1) Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you?

The children are our future. A famous quote from the founding of the nation is that “the philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next.” We have to prepare (not indoctrinate) our young people to think, to function as a citizen and to develop skills that will make them competitive in the workforce. I am running for this office to support steps that will, with parental involvement, prepare children to be successful as adults. I am running because I can add value. I do think that working together and being firm we can improve educational outcomes. Every candidate will say that they want to support parental involvement. This is a challenge. But, I want to work through the PTOs and explore other innovative ideas to receive meaningful parental input. I will have no trouble standing up in the face of controversy, listening and doing what is best.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

I would have four major priorities.

- a) Preparing children to enter either a University, the Community College, the workforce or the military. This is done by teaching the fundamentals and educating parents,
- b) The educational system must operate professionally. I understand how an elected board and staff interact, communicate and respect each other’s roles. Teacher’s and staff are doing a good job and the Board should be an asset that helps.
- c) The system should (and certainly does) have a process of clear goal setting with specific and measurable focus on student performance. This should all be done with transparency.
- d) Again, I want to focus on creative ways to involve parents. I have ideas but want to discuss further.

3) What issues do you believe need to be addressed in academic programs and offerings? What changes would you recommend?



Academic programs and course offerings are changing in this nation. I believe that teachers do a good job and their profession is “a calling” Teachers and staff need to continue to perform in a professional environment. My impression is that the class room now has a lot of reporting, forms and bureaucracy that competes with class work and makes teaching more demanding. We should focus on the foundations of reading, writing, math, science and history. I have had several parents mention student intervention as an important component for children with learning disabilities.

4) What is the role of schools in teaching children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

I tend to see the school system’s role in a limited manner. In saying that, there are difficult issues that need to be discussed especially in light of other traditional institutions like the family and churches being weakened over the past decades. Also, some of the topics in the question are clear and some need to be thought out on my part. I do not think that elementary students should receive instruction on sexual choice and gender related questions. I feel the same way about radical political theories that have the result of indoctrinating children. Parents should handle private matters especially in elementary school. I do believe that traditional sex education is needed but in a later grade, in a limited manner and with parental input!! My twin boys graduated from Nebo elementary. I won’t name the teacher...but, one of the boys asked her if the girl gets pregnant every time...the teacher said “yes, every time.” She called and we laughed about it. That teacher cared and approached my son in a loving way. I would have no tolerance for bullying. One child bullying another child for any reason is not acceptable. The topic of “racial equity” creates controversy. I have taught Government at ASU and would discuss American attitudes about equality. This nation believe in a system of laws, one in which people have the equal opportunity to receive justice and to function and prosper in the economy with some expectation of fairness.....Teaching children that they are inherently flawed is wrong. However, I have no problem teaching what I would call an “honest history.” I am not sure what the school’s role in teaching mental health should be and I may not understand the question. I do feel that the mental health of our children may be impacted by topics being taught before children understand and I also believe that excessive use of masks in the class room can create a negative impact. Cyber safety might be a topic that needs to be covered since technology is so pervasive at home and in the schools.

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system operates?



All of my previous answers address questions of parental involvement. The school system has a job to do preparing our children for the challenges they will face. We need to have a determined and creative process of encouraging involvement on the part of parents. We entrust our children to the school system in order to impart the tools they will need to function in society. The problem often emerges when children from broken homes do not receive sufficient guidance. The question is framed in the context of “how the school system operates” which is a larger question than teaching activity. The school system is a very large financial endeavor functioning in a complicated federal and state system. There are parts of the administrative process that cannot reasonably be run in a meeting.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

Students, parents and teachers have the right to be treated respectfully. Teachers should be treated as professionals. Students should feel safe. They should learn in an environment where to the greatest extent possible, they are treated equally. A parent should receive communication and have meaningful input. The educational system must make an effort to emphasize transparency.

7) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for the school system?

I am a Christian. Many teachers and staff are Christians. My faith will guide my decision making but that does not mean that I would be harsh or unsympathetic regarding different choices that other’s make. When I was county manager, we received a letter from a legal group in Washington DC telling the County that the Manger scene on the Courthouse yard should be immediately removed and that we were in violation of the First Amendment. The letter also threatened legal action if the Manger scene remained in place. I drafted a response and shared it with the Commissioners that clearly stated the Manger scene would stay on the yard and that we would not separate the celebration of Christmas from the birth of Christ. Christmas is not a secular holiday. I never received a response from the Washington based group and the Manager scene is put up each year. I could tell other similar stories.

8) If elected, how can CPR for McDowell County support you as a member of the Board of Education and McDowell County Schools?



There are times when elected boards need support and encouragement. The best support that a board and staff can receive is to have citizens that are aware and informed. The school system faces challenges and an informed population is needed. This organization could help educate and involve parents.

9) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

I have dealt with large budgets and tackled substantial problems. In the 1990s, we faced problems with school facilities, students in mobile classrooms and schools that were not air-conditioned, etc. The County and the School System put in place a “pay-as-you-go” construction fund that resulted in 70 million dollars of construction and renovation saving 35 million in interest if bonds had been issued. Many were involved but I helped and today McDowell County has good school facilities. A similar story can be told with regards to the “One to One” initiative. A major investment in lap tops was made and has been made each year and laptops are now available starting in kindergarten. I supported increasing teacher supplements. We need to recruit and retain quality teachers. Education is a priority.

I do want to work with employers to address serious issues related to workforce and skill level development. Companies are having difficulty hiring workers. Our ability to attract new investment is hindered by workforce issues.

I want to appeal to the Hispanic community to more fully engage and want to make sure that we are offering them the opportunity to be involved in the schools. I think that we are but want to make sure.

I was county manager for 27 years. I have put together large budgets and have a good understanding of how public systems work. I have no “ax to grind.” I was encouraged to run and offer my skill set for use. I will Work hard and will be disappointed if I am not successful but I am not wedded to the idea of being an elected official.

Thank you for your consideration.



Shannon Brackett

farm.momx2@gmail.com

1) Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you?

The teachers need to have someone to voice their concerns regarding problems teachers are having in the day to day operation of their classroom. I also want to see that our staff and school personnel are taken care of, which will ensure that our students are receiving the best and safest education we can offer them.

Coming from the classroom myself I understand the mental stress that comes with the job. I will make it one of my priorities to try to relieve some of that stress that teachers feel.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

I want to make certain that our school system offers the best instruction to our students that we are able to give them.

3) What issues do you believe need to be addressed in academic programs and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

I believe as a society we are asking our children to grow up too quickly. We need to make sure our curriculums are developmentally appropriate and allow our children to be educationally ready for what is being taught in our classrooms.

4) What is the role of schools in teaching children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

There are already curriculum, laws, programs and policies in place that address each of these subjects. It is important that teachers, students and parents are conscious of and become familiar with each of these topics in regards to the safe development and most effective education for our students.

5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system operates?



First and foremost parents should make sure that their child is prepared for each school day. Being actively involved with their students by helping them with homework, talking about their school day and attending parent teacher conferences are imperative to ensuring that students will be successful. It is also important that parents vote for the people whom they feel will stand up and make the tough decisions to create and maintain a curriculum that is developmentally appropriate for their child.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

There are laws already in place to protect the rights of parents, students and teachers. If the public would make themselves familiar with these laws and pursue these rights in a respectful and responsible manner our education system would work more effectively for all parties involved.

7) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for the school system?

I am a Christian and my faith has always been extremely important to me. I try to spend quiet time in prayer each day and let God lead my decisions. My decisions to become a teacher and stay a classroom teacher for 30 years were two decisions that were guided by my faith. The decision to run for school board was also guided by faith. My faith also caused me to pray for students in my classes all those years and to continue to pray for them and the teachers in our school system. I realize not all people share my faith, but I felt led to teaching and considered it my mission field. I will weigh decisions carefully and prayerfully.

8) If elected, how can CPR for McDowell County support you as a member of the Board of Education and McDowell County Schools?

First of all I want to thank you for your interest in the education of our children, our future. As a former educator I know the importance of people who are willing and able to volunteer in our schools to tutor and mentor students who need help when they are not on grade level. There are many students who do not have a support system at home and could benefit from having someone take interest in them.



9) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?

I am married to Neil Brackett and we have two daughters Tuccoa Freeman and Kassie Pinnix. We reside on a farm in Nebo.

I have tutored students, coached youth league basketball, helped with many school clubs and teams. I have taught Sunday School and helped with VBS and other children's programs at our church. I was the PG Community Pool manager for several years. I have been a substitute teacher for McDowell County Schools and taught ESL online for 3 years. My family owns and operates an event venue, The Wilson Farm Event Center.

I'm an honest, hard working woman that doesn't make rash decisions. I gather information from different sources in order to make an informed decision.



PG District

Keven Price

kevinprice725@gmail.com

1) Why are you running for the Board of Education? Is there a particular issue that motivates you?

My main reason for running to give back to the community and help in anyway that I can. I have a passion for helping and guiding our youth. I feel that the Lord has blessed me in so many aspects of my life and I am one of those people that firmly believe that if you can and you are able to help then you should help.

2) If elected, what would you consider your highest priorities?

My highest priority would be to make sure the all students in all the schools in the county receive what they need to attain the highest level of education that we could potentially provide for them. While each student is different and they come from different backgrounds and different financial means, all students should have the same opportunities.

3) What issues do you believe need to be addressed in academic programs and offerings? What changes would you recommend?

Making sure that the environment for the children is a safe and conducive environment that each child can be at a point every day, that they can focus and learn what is being taught. This may require some one on one counseling or some one on one teaching but I think it is our job to do everything that we can to make sure that each and every child gets the education that they deserve.

4) What is the role of schools in teaching children about the following topics: sex education, cyber-safety, mental health, bullying, racial equity?

I personally believe that that is a parents responsibility to teach their own children when they feel that it's appropriate. However I do believe that our school system should be available to offer professional counseling to help children with the following topics when parents need an additional assistance.



5) What is the extent that you believe parents should have in the way the public school system operates?

I think parents should have a large input on what their children are being taught and how their children are taught. Along with that I think parents should have an important role in being involved with the children's education from helping with homework and helping support their child's learning when they are not in school.

6) What are your views on student, parent, and teachers' rights in the education system?

I believe that all the above do have rights but each one's rights are different. I believe the students have a right to be in a conducive learning environment, free of distractions or in an environment that is intimidating for that student. I believe that teachers have the right to be able to spend extra time with students or recommend programs that may specifically work for struggling students, whether they are struggling with their schoolwork or a personal matter. I believe that parents have the right to know what is going on with their child each and every day. Whether there is some kind of online communication that the school systems use from the teachers to the parents where there is notes that are sent home, the parents should be made aware of things going on in their child's life at school on a daily basis without having to wait until a reporting period or parent teacher conference to have everything told to them.

7) If elected, how will your faith guide you in the decisions you make for the school system?

So the way I make decisions would not change. The way I make any decision in my life, whether it's business, family or any other important impactful decision, I pray about it and ask for guidance and I do not make a decision until I feel that that decision is right.

8) If elected, how can CPR for McDowell County support you as a member of the Board of Education and McDowell County Schools?

Just to be supportive and be there for the school board members. It's no different really than having an extended church family that is there to help in time of need.

9) Is there any additional information you would like CPR for McDowell County to know about you?



Except for a time period in my 30's where my job took me out of town, I am a lifelong resident of McDowell County. I attended elementary school, middle school and high school here. I currently own two businesses in the area, Duramed equipment LLC and J and K Construction. Me and my wife were foster parents for a period of time back in 2016 and 2017 and I have been the president over McDowell Little League since 2016 and been able to guide and mentor thousands of our young people over the past six years.



Eddie Shuford (Did not respond)

edshuford@yahoo.com



C.P.R. for McDowell Supporting Churches & Organizations

Catawba Falls Baptist	Parkers Chapel Missionary Baptist
Chapel Hill Baptist	Pleasant Gardens Baptist
Coxes Creek Freewill Baptist	Pinnacle Baptist
Glenwood Independent Baptist	Redeemed Freewill Baptist
Going Home Freewill Baptist	Salem Freewill Baptist
Good News Club	Solid Rock Freewill Baptist
Grace Baptist	Sunny Grove Baptist
Harvest Time Baptist	Temple Baptist
Hicks Chapel Baptist	Turkey Cove Baptist
Lackey Town Baptist	Valley Chapel Baptist
Liberty Freewill Baptist	Victory Temple Full Gospel
Mount Pleasant Baptist	West Court Baptist
Mt. Calvary Freewill Baptist	Woodlawn Baptist
New Manna Baptist	Yancey Street Baptist
Old Fort Free Will Baptist	Zion Hill Baptist
Outreach Baptist	

C.P.R. for McDowell Board of Directors & Officers

President & Director: Eric Hollifield, eric.hollifield.cpr@gmail.com

Vice President & Director: Jeffrey Wheeler, jeffrey.wheeler.cpr@gmail.com

Director: Chris Wall, chris.wall.cpr@gmail.com

Website & Marketing: Brianna Queen, cprformcdowell@gmail.com

Secretary: Aprille Bailey, support@cprformcdowell.org

Treasurer: Jack Collins, jack.collins.cpr@gmail.com



Message from C.P.R. President

Christian Perspective Representatives would like to thank every candidate that responded to our questionnaire. We realize this was a new request for candidates in McDowell County and we are very appreciative of the number of detailed responses we received. A key component of our mission is to help close the communication gap between local elected officials and the communities within counties utilizing local churches as they are an outreach to the communities. How many times have you voted for someone local and not known who they are and what they stand for? One of the goals of our organization is to fix that! We are excited to see how God will be opening doors and using C.P.R. to help bring this vision to reality. Also, I would like to personally thank the directors and officers of C.P.R. There has been a lot of hours and dedication poured into C.P.R. from our directors, officers, and supporters to make this candidate questionnaire possible. With their efforts, hard work, and cooperation from candidates C.P.R. will be able to help the communities of McDowell County learn more about the candidates on the ballots prior to casting a vote.

Our prayer is this candidate questionnaire will be used to inform the citizens of our county to make the best prayerful decision possible when they cast their ballot. If you are interested in learning more about C.P.R., please reach out to us. Churches from other counties have been in contact and we are scheduling appointments for us to share our work. We look forward to the opportunity of helping establish different chapters of C.P.R. We have been able to speak with other nonprofits in other states and we are interested in networking with more. Thank you for reading this questionnaire and please keep C.P.R. in your prayers.

In Christ,

Eric Hollifield, President & Director