

Candidate Responses – Orange County School Board

Steve Keeler

Question 1: Position Seeking:

SK: School Board Member

Question 2: Have You Previously Held this Position?

SK: No

Question 3: Will you be attending the August 23, 2023, Orange County Candidate Showcase?

SK: Yes

Question 4: How will you foster relationships between businesses and the school community?

SK: Be a liaison between the school and local businesses by building face to face relationships with them.

Question 5: Over the years, minority representation has decreased relative to administration and teaching staff. There is a growing concern among the African American community relative to the issue. What would be your proposal to help bridge the gap?

SK: First make certain that staff is made aware of the concern and try to build a confidence in the staff we have in order to make all the community comfortable with our staff understanding that we are hiring the very best to give their students the very best.

Question 6: Our youth are our future. Agricultural education and organizations such as FFA plug students into the pathways available to grow, supply, and create within the agricultural sector. How would you like to see agricultural education be best supported in Orange County Public Schools? Are you in favoring of continuing these programs; what changes, if any, would you like to see? What experience do you have working with said programs?

SK: I am a product of a very early CTE type program and I'm a huge proponent of them. Because we have such a large AG culture here in Orange, I would want to see the CTE & FFA programs grow and be equally offered to students as an academic education is. I'm pro-ed-choice both vocational and academic.

Question 7: Please further explain your interest in a position with our local School Board. What is your connection to Orange County Public Schools?

SK: I'm was a single father of twins and they attended public school, private school and they were home schooled. So, I bring a unique perspective to the school board. I also have a daughter that is a Special Needs Teacher and Teacher of the year 2022.

Question 8: What is your stance on CTE education and internship opportunities in the community and how will you support these efforts?

SK: I will do all I can to encourage a strong CTE program and work with local businesses to ensure that we have the connections needed to follow through on this.

Question 9: What do you consider to be the greatest needs of the Orange County Public Schools that the School Board can resolve? If elected, what would be your top priority?

SK: We need to make certain our teachers are well taken care of. They need comparative salary with the surrounding counties. We make that happen by trimming the fat so to speak. We need to go line by line through the budget to insure we are not over spending and taking that away from our teachers.
