

# Charlotte County School Board

## Candidate (District 2) Questions - 2024

Name: Kim Amontree

Date: June 12, 2024

### **What are the Charlotte County Public Schools' greatest strengths and how do you plan to support them?**

Our school district's strengths lie in several key areas. Our incredibly **dedicated staff** is committed to student success, ensuring every student reaches their full potential. Our efforts are guided by a **strategic plan** led by our dynamic Superintendent, which places student success at the center of everything we do. Finally, Our School District has a **robust technical college**, offering diverse workforce education programs that equip students with essential skills for high-demand careers.

We deeply value our teachers and staff, which is evident in our competitive compensation. Our average teacher salary is the fourth highest in the state, reflecting our commitment to attracting and retaining top talent. As a board member, I will ensure that we continue to invest in our educators, providing them with the resources and support they need to excel.

As a school board member, I will work closely with our Superintendent and colleagues to monitor the progress of the [strategic plan](#) and ensure that action items and goals are reached. By fostering a collaborative environment, we can continue to make decisions that benefit our students and staff. Supporting our Superintendent's vision will be crucial in maintaining the focus on student achievement and success.

Additionally, I will continue our strong advocacy efforts at both the state and national levels. These efforts have resulted in increased funding for workforce programs, particularly in high-demand fields like aviation. These programs prepare our students for high-skill, high-wage jobs, ensuring their future success in the workforce.

In summary, my role as a school board member will be to support and enhance our district's efforts by building on our successes, supporting our Superintendent, working collaboratively with my colleagues, and advocating for our students.

## **What is Charlotte County Public Schools' greatest areas of opportunity and how do you plan to address them?**

Charlotte County Public Schools has significant opportunities to enhance student success. Two key areas of focus are improving student achievement and expanding workforce education.

Firstly, there is an urgent need to improve student achievement by enhancing rigor and relevance in the classroom. Rigor involves academic discussion and high-level questioning tied to real-world scenarios, challenging students to think critically and deeply. By implementing a career planning guide, we can connect students' classroom experiences with their future aspirations, making education relevant. Furthermore, collaboration with the community through successful programs like Charlotte County Reads and Reading Buddies can provide additional support to students, fostering a love for reading and improving literacy rates.

Secondly, workforce education is a critical area of opportunity. Continuing our partnership with Space Florida, the Airport Authority, and the Charlotte County Government is essential to identifying and developing programs that attract the aerospace and aviation industry to Charlotte County. These partnerships can create pathways for students to high-skill, high-wage jobs in growing industries, preparing them for successful futures.

As a School Board Member, I plan to address these opportunities by:

1. Supporting the implementation of rigorous academic standards that engage students in meaningful and challenging learning experiences.
2. Ensuring the career planning guide is effectively integrated into the curriculum to help students connect their education with their future career goals.
3. Fostering and expanding community collaboration programs to provide additional academic support and enrichment opportunities.
4. Strengthening and expanding partnerships with local industries and organizations to develop workforce education programs that align with regional economic needs and opportunities.

By focusing on these areas, we can enhance student achievement, prepare students for future success, and contribute to the economic growth of Charlotte County.

## **Why are you the right choice for the Charlotte County School Board?**

I am proud to have called Charlotte County my home for the past 33 years. Serving as the District 2 School Board member has been the greatest privilege of my life. When I first ran in 2016, our School District Ranking for student achievement was at its lowest point. Since then, I have worked diligently with our dedicated leadership team to increase student achievement, ensure the safety of our children, and responsibly manage tax dollars.

We have faced numerous challenges during my tenure, but my unwavering focus on three core pillars—student achievement, student safety, and fiscal responsibility—has led to significant accomplishments. Under my leadership, Charlotte County Public Schools achieved its highest graduation rate and the highest percentage of students taking and passing college and career acceleration courses. We expanded workforce education programs, including the Aviation Maintenance FAA Certification, and made historic investments in school safety. Additionally, we have recruited and retained high-quality teachers, now earning the fourth-highest average pay in the state. Finally, we completed an operational efficiency study to optimize our resources.

As the Florida School Board Association Legislative Chair, I advocated for students statewide, resulting in historic funding increases for student programs, higher teacher salaries, and new workforce development initiatives.

Community involvement is a cornerstone of my commitment. Over the past 33 years, I have served on various nonprofit boards and currently chair the Punta Gorda YMCA Community Board. I have also been actively involved with students through mentoring and volunteer programs.

With a strong educational background and extensive professional experience in business management, I bring a well-rounded perspective to the School Board. My family values and dedication to our community reinforce my commitment to ensuring that every student in Charlotte County has the opportunity to succeed.

I am the right choice for the Charlotte County School Board because of my proven track record, unwavering commitment, and deep-rooted dedication to our community.

**Please answer each question in 300 words or less and email back to [bwhite@charlottecountycommerce.org](mailto:bwhite@charlottecountycommerce.org) on or before July 12, 2024.**



**Charlotte County  
Chamber of Commerce**