

SCHOOL BOARD

	District 1 Greg Davis	District 3 Linda Elder Davis	District 5 Kara Dyckman	District 5 Imani Scott-Blackwell	District 7 LaKeisha Gantt
Questionnaire Received	3/29/2018 0:56:13	4/2/2018 16:42:21	4/4/2018 8:49:03	4/5/2018 0:58:28	4/5/2018 10:09:46
Are you a Democrat?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If elected, will you work to enact the ACCDC platform?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Have you ever been a member of the ACCDC? If you have, please indicate your years of service and describe your work with the ACCDC	Yes, for the past six years. Member and on the board for two years.	No	No	No I have not.	No, I am not a member of the ACCDC.
Please list all campaigns you have worked on, regardless of party affiliation, in either a volunteer or staff member capacity, on either the federal, state, or local level, and briefly describe your work on each.	Obama 2012, David Vogle 2014, Jonathan Wallace 2917, currently Davenport	UGA Student Volunteer, passed out literature at the county fair, Jimmy Carter for Governor; Volunteer, fund raising, canvassing - Rita Bass for Dekalb County Commissioner; Office volunteer, canvassing, contributor, Charlie Maddox for Mayor; volunteer, contributor, Ovita Thornton for Clarke County Commissioner.	I have not worked on any campaigns in the past.	Paid staff member for Jon Ossoff Volunteer for local candidate Ovita Thornton	I canvassed with Kamau Hull once during his campaign for school board.
Please describe any work you have done in your community, either in Athens-Clarke County or elsewhere, in support of progressive causes.	voter registration, marches and rallies against discrimination, anti-immigrant work, school board	Creating a voice for the under-served: Grass roots organizing: Provided facilitation and communications support for Community organizing for Evans Street and Surrounding Communities to include meeting planning, note taking and distribution, worked with leaders to developed and distribute	I have been a member of the Chase St. Elementary School Local School Governance Team (LSGT) for the past year and a half. This is not necessarily a progressive cause, but LSGTs do make recommendations and decisions for the local schools, and therefore can advocate for	I recently took three high school students on a trip to the Capitol to lobby for progressive policies in support of marijuana decriminalization, \$15 minimum wage, in support of recess for all students, and more. I worked with the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement to get a Civil Rights Committee	Worked in schools, addressing issues of school climate and disproportionate discipline practices. I worked with underserved families and students with the aim of improving school climate as well as mental health. Recently, I've began attending commission meetings to voice my opposition and concerns

Please list organizations and/or causes you have been involved with in any kind of substantial way.

EJC, A4E, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens

annual program in celebration of neighbors and neighborhood awareness for ten years.

progressive policies in the schools.

in place as well as an Anti-Discrimination Ordinance. I was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Athens For Everyone but had to step down from that role to run my

about an new housing community to be built for seniors that requires a zoning change and will likely not be accessible to working class families.

Co-convener for Athens Community Agenda - 9 years (?), Coordinator for Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery - historic cemetery restoration - 13 years, Coach and coordinator for church team in Athens Area Black History Bowl, 5 years.

Chase St. Elementary School LSGT - see above Although I do not have a lot of experience with organizations and causes, I feel that being on the school board would be a way for me to use my skills and perspective to be of service to our community - especially to the kids in Athens.

Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement
Athens For Everyone

I have worked with youth in our community during community based initiatives as well as through my church, as a minister and leader.

If elected, what will be your policy priorities? Please describe 3 - 5 priorities.

Career Technical Education, community outreach including West Broad, education of marginalized students

Equity in Education with a focus on Pre K - 12; Ending systemic racism, supporting working families

EQUITY: Ensuring equity in our schools and district means that every student gets the support that they need. Students come to us from different backgrounds with different experiences, and so they have different needs. No matter which school they attend in our district, we need to make sure that we have the resources to meet the academic and socio-emotional needs of all of our students.
SAFETY: Students and staff need to feel safe and valued in their schools, and parents need to know that the district and individual schools are doing everything they can to

Addressing Racial Inequalities in Education: Unfortunately, our public education system is not free from responsibility in perpetuating race and class inequalities in our society. Where education is supposed to position all students for success as fully-developed, cooperative members of our global society, instead it has been allowed to
Mitigating Food Insecurity: 1 out of 5 individuals in Athens Clarke-County are food insecure, meaning their household economic situation limits their access to adequate food. This food insecurity negatively

1. Re-read the policies (sounds simple but I fear this doesn't happen enough). 2. Identify areas in which policy might negatively impact practice, and the culture of our schools. 3. As we create policy, advocate that the policies (and procedures) are practical, equitable, and work towards supporting healthy school climates.

keep their children safe, both physically and emotionally. Risks to student safety can come from people outside the school, but they can also come from other people within the school. School safety plans need to be evaluated and updated with changing circumstances, and the broader community needs to be kept informed.

food. This food insecurity negatively impacts student achievement and well-being, public health in Athens, and the ability of people in poverty to improve their economic situation. It is time for the Board of Ed. to take a point role in improving the long-term health outcomes of all students, but particularly those experiencing under-nutrition and/or food insecurity. According to the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education's "Top Ten Issues to Watch in 2018", student's academic performance improves when the nutritional quality of meals they're provided at school improve. I will advocate for a holistic approach to education that provides students with nutrient rich meals, increased access to restorative justice and mindfulness practice, as well as access to developmentally appropriate recess.

Does your campaign have a platform? If so, please include a link here.

No not in writing

Non contested seat

Yes -

www.karaforschoolboard.com

<http://www.imaniforyouth.com>

<https://www.electlakeishagantt.com/platform>

Do you support raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour?

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Do you support making it easier for workers to organize and join unions?

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Will you support policies aimed at increasing the stock of affordable housing in in-town neighborhoods and making home-ownership more possible for ACC's low-income residents?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Would you support initiatives to help keep longtime Athens residents in their homes -- people who are in danger of being pushed out of their neighborhoods by gentrification and rising taxes?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support equal pay for equal work for women?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Should marijuana be removed from the list of "Schedule 1" federal controlled substances?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Should local law enforcement agencies be required to assist federal immigration law enforcement agencies with deportations?	No	No	No	No	No
Should military-style weapons be accessible to civilians?	No	No	No	No	No
Do you support repealing the Campus Carry law?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support incentivizing investments in clean energy and ending tax breaks and other perks for fossil fuel companies?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support increasing protections for wetlands buffers to help keep our waterways uncontaminated?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support comprehensive non-discrimination legislation in ACC?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Should it be illegal for public businesses and institutions to discriminate against LGBTQ people?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support the expansion of Medicaid in Georgia?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Do you support the goal of Universal healthcare – healthcare as a fundamental human right for every American?

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Should all state education funds should be directed to public schools?

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

What are your thoughts about how to secure safe schools for all students?

Address the psychological needs is students

This should really be left up to the experts to spend time and resources making recommendations to district personnel who can then make decisions for the individual schools and the communities they serve.

Safety is one of the biggest issues we face in our schools, and it goes well beyond ensuring that a gunman can't enter our schools. We need to make sure our children and teachers feel safe, both physically and emotionally. I would advocate for having more people in the schools who are trained in mental health (either social workers or psychologists), who can form relationships and work with our students. With regard to keeping our schools safe from a mass shooter, I don't have the expertise to create a plan for that, but I do think that it is critical to work with and listen to people who do. I do know that I do not support arming teachers.

We need to focus on preventative measures rather than reactionary punishments. There is no quick fix for school safety. We need to put the time and resources into fully implementing restorative justice practices in schools to improve school climate. Additionally, we need to ensure that mental health treatment is accessible for all young people in our community. Also, schools need to be appropriately staffed with trauma-informed, culturally competent individuals trained to deescalate conflicts such as social workers, counselors, etc.

Securing safe schools for all students is an ongoing and complex work. Overall, school are safe places (in the sense that millions of students attend school without physical harm). However, there is still concern when there is even a small threat of physical harm. I do believe that schools are very vulnerable places and the prevention of any attacks is important. Areas to focus on to improve security of schools are resources officers, check in/out procedures, visitation procedures, as well as alarm systems. That's not a comprehensive list but places to start. In Clarke County, a school safety audit is being conducted which I think will highlight more concrete areas of

improvement. The importance of emotional safety is often overlooked, but I believe it's connected to school safety. Regarding emotional safety for all students, we need more support professionals in schools, effective leadership, effective and equitable discipline policies, and environments in which teachers are supported and allowed to be the experts that they are (all of this can impact the culture and safety of a classroom).

Do you support the current Teacher Retirement System of Georgia?

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Should legislation requiring electoral districts be drawn by an independent, nonpartisan redistricting commission?

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Do you support restoring the full protections of the Voters Rights Act?

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes