



Felton Board Candidate: Keshia Elmore

Employment: Release Authority Manager at South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

Check all that apply:

Experience with business, Resident of SC, Parent or Legal Guardian of Student

Education:

Benedict College, Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice

Other Training:

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

As a parent and as an advocate for children I wanted to serve on the Board of Director's because I want to be part of the solution or help in any way that I can as well being more active with the school that my children attends. I have always had the love for children. Our children are our future leaders, doctor's, mechanics, scientist, and more of today. I want make an impact on something greater than just help my children with homework which it comes to their education. Being apart of the board to give some of my expertise as a mother, advocate for youths from the juvenile justice system and other capacities that I have served and came from. This can help empower our children to be proud of who they are and who they want to become as well as showing parents the support that they may need.

2. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.

I work for the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice as a Release Authority Manger. I handle juvenile cases that have been committed by Family Court on an indeterminate commitment (not to excide their 21st birthday) for misdemeanor offenses and status offenses. I also oversee a panel of 9 members that I present the cases to. I ensure that information is current and accurate. I conduct parole hearings, parole rescission and revocation hearings. I decide request of change of a juvenile's parole status and/or parole conditions, for parole revocation hearings, including the arrest and/or detainment of a juvenile. I also ensure that decisions and orders of the Release Authority panel are executed by the appropriate persons. I supervise and provide training for employees involved with the Release Authority. I have served on several planning committees within agency to decide what will benefit our juveniles and have volunteered my time to help victims as well as mentor youths in the community. I have been in this line of work for 18 years.



3. Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.

The differences between my responsibility as a board member and the principals responsibility is that as a board member it is my job to keep the school on track, and set policies and procedures that affect my child and their school. As a member of the school board we will set the vision and goals foe the school direct, and hold Felton Laboratory Charter School accountable for results. I would lie to contribute my unique talents while collaborating and working as a team with other board members to best serve our students and the community in which they live. The role of a principal is to provide strategic direction in the school system. Principals develop standardized methods, monitor student achievement, encourage parent involvement, revise policies and procedures, administer the budget`, hire and evaluate staff and oversee facilities.

4. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and school board to focus on in the upcoming years?

Foe the upcoming years I think the most important issue for Felton Laboratory Charter School is Academic improvement...after looking at test data to see if there are some areas of improvement that can be made. Increasing parental support and involvement such as providing workshops for parents. Continue to create a positive and friendly environment that's inviting for parents/community and conducive for learning for all students. Last but not least administer needs assessments to parents, students and staff to identify any areas of concerns that they may have as well and horn in on those areas



Felton Board Candidate: Valerie Fields

Employment: Principal Consultant at Valiant Achieving Leaders

Check all that apply:

Experience with business, Experience with K-12 Education, Resident of SC

Education:

Southern University and A&M College, BA Early Childhood Education (Elementary)

University of Louisiana at Monroe and Louisiana Tech University, M. Ed., Ed. S. and Ed. D.

Other Training: How to Build a Thriving Nonprofit and Your Growth as a Nonprofit Leader

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Felton is in need of increasing English, Language Arts student achievement. I can serve as a catalyst to foster relationships with SC State and Claflin University's teacher preparation programs and other organizations to provide support. I am positioned to assist with professional development and strategies to provide release time to administrators and teachers to ensure learning and growth continues for them.

2. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.

Having worked as a kindergarten teacher, 6th grade English teacher, Mathematics Specialist, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for Academic Affairs as well as an owner of a business, work and life experiences have prepared me over the last 29 years to serve, learn and grow in education and business. I am engaged in civic and professional organizations that lend a plethora of volunteer and philanthropic experiences. A snapshot of my volunteer background would include being named Big Brother Big Sister Community-Based Volunteer of the Year and recognized with an Uplift Award from Omega Psi Phi Incorporated.

3. Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.

The principal is responsible for day to day operations. Board members are to assure the day to day operations are supported by establishing a vision and goals, implementing policies that are designed to produce result oriented outcomes that yield success for the director, faculty, students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders. The principal will review policies and provide guidance for increasing academic achievement support by the board. The board should ensure the upkeep of the school facilities are indicative of the STEAM diverse learning environment and provide a safe inviting school culture.

4. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and school board to focus on in the upcoming years?

To implement and support a plan that will establish goals to increase student achievement that reflects the sustainability of diverse STEAM school environment and its' success.



Felton Board Candidate: Adrienne Johnson

Employment: Behavior Specialist at STAR Center for Learning

Check all that apply:

Experience with K-12 Education, Resident of SC

Education:

South Carolina State University, Bachelor of Science Counselor Education

South Carolina State University, Master of Arts Rehabilitation Counseling/Master of Education School Counseling k-12

Other Training: Served on Boys and Girls Club Advisory Board

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

I would like to be considered for a seat on the Felton School Board of Directors because I have had a relationship with many of the teachers there as well as the students that have attended the school. It has been known for its quality education and the students who are well-rounded in so many subjects. I feel that it would be an honor to assist in the future direction of Felton. Having been involved in education and my local church, I have established a large group of professionals that has given me support throughout my years. My goal is to offer my support and recommendations based on the needs of the school. I have so many constituents from different professions. My connections with many agencies and individuals have allowed me to learn so much about the problems that affect the educational experience of a child. Therefore, I have a desire to serve on Felton's school board to assist in issues that may arise, as well as provide my knowledge and leadership in another capacity.

2. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.

As I stated before, I have had experience working with various supports. My job as a Mental Health Department counselor opened many doors to other types of organizations that assisted me and my patients. While dealing with students, I soon discovered that our area has many cases of youth criminals who need help. The Department of Juvenile Justice has requested my help in some cases while providing me with assistance once I entered the school system. I have spent hours counseling young people and adults on issues that affected them, mentally and emotionally. These agencies, including Social Services and our local police and Sheriff's Department have been involved in issues that I have been called to offer aid. My background is filled with different organizations that I have helped when called. My church youth have been very open with me about family problems and other personal issues. My volunteer work fills my schedule when I am not involved with my paid duties. To serve as a volunteer in different capacities is fulfilling to me.



3. Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.

Taking on responsibilities in the capacity of a school board member would include having open discussions of the school's strengths and weaknesses. As a board member, it would be my place to discuss issues while deciding as a team, what recommendations can be made to improve the weaknesses. Serving on a team to make the school better through suggestions of the board would be another responsibility. Once the team agrees on the issues, the recommendations should be given to the Principal. Often time people tend to disagree on the ways to change or correct the problem. In the positions of the board members, this probably happens often; however, if logical support is provided for one side of the discussion, then there may less disagreement. The Principal should have a major voice in any decision based on his/her knowledge of the school's history. It is the Principal that must help to enforce or change the procedures and/or recommendations of the Board. Regardless of the decisions made, it should always be done with all stakeholders in mind and a fair, unbiased system.

4. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and school board to focus on in the upcoming years?

The most important issue that any school and school board should focus is its product. In this case, the product is a well-rounded successful student. The goal is to focus on the issues that will eventually affect the future of our school, community, and state. Without an education system that produces highly motivated individuals, without the consideration of price is not successful; therefore, the purpose is wasted. Maintaining high quality educators is not a cheap investment but the payoff is worth it. Teachers who are innovative and willing to move students to a higher level will make the school's investment worth it all. The importance of knowing what needs the most attention is also based on the public. The reputation of the school gets noticed very quickly in our high tech world. Being ready to contend with the technological world we are building should be first and foremost as well. Community awareness will bring about financial assistance if the promises are kept. Felton is known for its quality education program and should continue to focus on the past success of its school through the efforts of its faculty, staff, and school board.



Felton Board Candidate: Kalu Kalu

Employment: Clinical Pharmacist at The Regional Medical Center

Check all that apply:

Experience with business, Experience with K-12 Education, Resident of SC

Education:

University of Wisconsin, BS-Pharmacy

University of South Carolina & South University, Doctor of Pharmacy & MBA-Health Care Management

Other Training: Boardmanship training while serving on previous boards

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

It is critical that there be strong voices promoting academic achievement in every key decision. As a board member, I will work with other board members and the principal in the effort to move Felton Laboratory Charter School toward vigorous academic environment, thereby providing all students the opportunity to receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for the world and to become productive citizens.

2. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.

I have over the years served as a strong advocate for academic excellence of the children in our community. I have served as a former board member/chairman of Orangeburg School District 5, and a former board member of Family Health Center. I have worked as Adjunct Instructor at Claflin University; Adjunct Clinical Professor at both MUSC and USC College of Pharmacy respectively. I am involved in yearly medical mission, and helped establish a stand-alone medical clinic in a community in Nigeria.

3. Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.

As board members, it is not our business to run the day-to day activities of the school. This is the principal's job. The board governs by policy. Every academic institution needs an excellent principal in order to thrive. Felton Laboratory Charter School is not different. As board members, it is our function to hire a principal who is capable and qualified to face the challenges of educating our children and has a passion for the teachers, staff, students, and community that they will serve. The board should be good steward of the fund given to them for the education of the children. The board should maintain a workable environment where there is respect and professional improvement for our employees.

4. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and school board to focus on in the upcoming years?

Charter Schools are often provided less funding per pupil for operating expenses than traditional public schools. Also, Charter Schools are frequently on different schedules for receiving funding compared to public schools. The federal government should create equitable public funding for charter school. A barrier to charter school expansion is the availability of physical space. Federal involvement should include incentives for facilities access. The board should focus on funding, well-rounded education for the students, conducive learning environment, and parental plus community involvement.



Felton Board Candidate: Sumesh Nair

Employment: Teacher at Calhoun County Public school

Check all that apply:

Experience with K-12 Education, Resident of SC, Parent or Legal Guardian of Student

Education:

Barkatullah University, India, Bachelor of Science(Math, Physics, Statistics), Bachelor of Education (Math) Barkatullah University, American College of Education, Master of Science(Statistics), Master of Education in Educational leadership

Other Training: Future School Leaders (South Carolina Department of Education)

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

Not just my kids or my nieces and nephews, but ALL kids. And, you know that all kids deserve a great education. Wouldn't it be great if every single school was a school you would choose to send your kids to? Make that happen. By serving on a board, I can be part of the team that turns that dream into reality.

2. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.

I have been in the field of education for 18 years and about 12 years in America as a teacher at Calhoun County High School. I am also the parent of two girls who are, the current students of Felton School. Being a parent and being in the teaching field gives me the knowledge of what is the important issues that has to be solved to make the education worth for every student who comes to the school.

3. Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.

The Principal is responsible for the management and day-to-day operations and business of the school. The authority to exercise managerial powers is delegated from the Board, which retains responsibility for the overall governance of the School. The Principal oversees the educational programs and developments in the school (and in the broader educational community) and must keep Board Members abreast of these issues. It is critical that the Principal and the Board have confidence in one another.

4. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and school board to focus on in the upcoming years?

A 2018 survey by the Pew Research Center conducted two months after last year's February school shooting in Parkland, Fla., showed that 57 percent of U.S. teenagers are worried that a shooting could take place at their own school. One in four are 'very worried' about the chance. I understand if students don't feel safe at school, achievement suffers. It's the paramount duty of everyone in the community, and the politicians who represent them, to help create safe learning spaces.



Felton Board Candidate: Greg Twitty

Employment: Purchasing Supervisor at Fairfield County School District

Check all that apply:

Experience with business, Experience with K-12 Education, Resident of SC, Parent or Legal Guardian of Student

Education:

Benedict College, Business Administration with a minor in Economics

Other Training: Served on a county appointed board in Lancaster, SC

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

To provide the board and school district with an individual who understands the operations of a school district.

2. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.

As a district level K-12 employee in procurement for past eight years, I clearly understand the importance of spending funds for school operations. I previously served on the Joint Planning Commission for Lancaster County approving all land development for city and county. I also served as a mentor at Mellichamp School which included eating lunch, talking and reading to students monthly. Currently, I serve as a mentor for male middle and high school students in the Bowtie Club for Fairfield County School District.

3. Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.

The principal is totally responsible for the day to day operations of the school facility. This includes teacher and staff recruitment, student achievement, and parent involvement. The board and principal should work together to develop the five year strategic plan. The board and principal should also move in the same direction for student achievement and the overall success of the school. As a board member I will listen to request from administration with an open mind.

4. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and school board to focus on in the upcoming years?

The administration and board should continue to work on teacher and staff recruitment and student achievement. Provide students with a STEAM curriculum to be college and career ready. The board and administration should concentrate on facility enhancements and technology needs.



Felton Board Candidate: James Whetstone

Employment: UPS Driver at UPS

Check all that apply:

Resident of SC, Parent or Legal Guardian of Student

Education:

South Carolina State University, Bachelor of Arts

Other Training:

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Directors?

I would like the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors for Felton Laboratory Charter School, because I firmly believe in its mission of providing a rigorous, creative and diverse learning environment.

2. Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.

I volunteered on many school committees, as both a parent and as a past Felton Laboratory Charter School Board member. Volunteering has given me a greater appreciation and insight for what it will take to make the school and its children both successful.

3. Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.

As a member of the board, it is my responsibility to work with the my fellow board members, develop policy and be knowledgeable of current state and federal laws that govern charter schools. It is the principal's responsibility to implement and execute these polices and do so in a manner that will benefit each child. The principal should ensure all state and federal charter schools laws are adhered to.

4. What do you consider to be the most important issue for the school and school board to focus on in the upcoming years?

The most important issue facing the school and its board in upcoming years is the drop in test scores and the hiring of qualified dedicated teachers.