

Watchmen Voter Guide for Lake Pend Oreille School District – Zone 2
** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

	<u>Jalon Peters</u>	<u>Gerhart Suppiger III</u>
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Jalon Peters – Lake Pend Oreille School District board. I’m running to help make the board more accountable to parents & taxpayers	Gary Suppiger, Lake Pend Oreille Trustee Zone2. I believe in Education. Education benefits the individual, community, and state. The educated are healthier, happier, and earn more their entire life time. My three children attended school in LPOSD from K-12. My wife and I are very happy with their educational experience. I want to make sure future classes of children in Bonner County have the same opportunities.
2. How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increased parent monitoring of the classroom & extracurricular activities - increased focus on the trades & trade schools - Better fiscal responsibility 	LPOSD has grown and improved during my 4-year tenure. There remains work to be done. Expanding the CTE offerings, offering a cost-free afterschool program at all the districts elementary schools (it is now available in 3), and recognizing the contribution of our classified employees with higher wages to compensate for the high cost of housing in Bonner County are goals.
3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?	- Family First! The LPOSD should come alongside parents & welcome their input and monitoring. Encourage parents to get involved. Also, the LPOSD should not force curriculums & testing just because of national mandates.	LPOSD is a school district. Educations is our mission. Academic achievement and excellence are our goal. LPOSD should provide the tools needed for our students to succeed beyond high school. Whether that means college, vocational training, the military, religious missions, or going directly into the work force our graduates need the skills to not just survive but thrive.
4. Do you support “Critical Race Theory,” why or why not?	No! It undermines truth & Patriotism. I do not believe certain races of people are inherently racist. CRT also undermines the rule of law.	I do not support critical race theory. There is no place for racism or discrimination either innate or acquired any where in our society. CTR is not in the curriculum at LPOSD, never has been, and never will be as long as I serve on the board.
5. Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	Not as part of curriculum. This would tie to CRT and social justice emphasis. I do agree that we are all unique & “diverse” but to change who we are to fit others’ differences is wrong.	Diversity, equity, and inclusion are in our curriculum. Nondiscrimination, equal opportunity in education, employment, housing, economics are guaranteed buy our state and federal constitutions and are taught and practiced in our schools.

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6. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	I think its good to give teachers more freedom to teach to where their kids are at. But that could be a slippery slope of non accountability.	I support learning choices. Parents decide where to educate their children. I support those families who choose public schools, charter schools, home schools, private, or parochial schools. The demand for and numbers of charter schools in Idaho has been growing. Many are excellent choices. I support parents who choose to send their children to free state supported charter schools. They are a great choice.
7. Do you support the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members' paychecks to finance political activities, why or why not?	No, not without their consent. Nobody should have to pay for something they disagree with.	Idaho is a "right to work state". No employee can be required to join a labor union to work. The members of a union join voluntarily. Those who join a union represent one vote within that union. If the majority of the members vote to support political activities, that is their choice. It is much like this election. I will not get all the votes. But I, will represent all the voters in my zone whether they voted for me or not.
8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	Oppose. This ideology assumes <u>all</u> the users of these locations are ok with this. It is discriminatory to those that are that gender physically. There is so many points with this I don't have time to mention.	Your gender is established at birth and recorded on your birth certificate by the doctor who delivered you. Some people are not comfortable with their gender at birth and seek hormones and surgery to change their gender. These medical procedures are risky and not appropriate for children. A child under 18 years of age is not a consenting adult. They are not of legal age to consent to sex and certainly not of legal age to consent to a sex change. Bathrooms and locker rooms at schools are for students, who are children, and should be used according to their birth identity.
9. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	100% accountability to parents. Parent involvement and approval of all topics & methods. NOTHING should be done w/out parental knowledge & approval	School Counselors play an important role in student success. They advise students in academic, career, and social matters. Some students are troubled and can not learn easily. Frequently problems come to school from home: divorce, substance abuse, inadequate sleep, poor nutrition, poverty, and violence. Counselors are trained professionals who often diagnose problems parents many do not see. It is their responsibility to work with and respect parents in addressing the stresses that comes from home and find a solution. At LPOSD there has been a significant increase in counseling demand during to the pandemic. Families are under stress because of finances and health. Elementary age children are being counseled to deal with depression, anxiety, and schizophrenia.

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10. What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion without parental notification?	I am pro life. So I am opposed to abortion anyway. So I would say I am opposed to this. For many reasons.	Students are not adults. They are not mature and able to make adult decisions. Children under 18 should not be allowed to receive an abortion with out parental notification and consent. I believe an unborn life is sacred, a gift from God. Abortion is inhumane. Parents, counselors, pastors, health care professionals, social services, all offer better options than abortions.
11. Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	No! I do not believe in re-writing history. Even though Facts are uncomfortable, that doesn't mean we change them.	1619 Project is a journalistic essay that commemorates the 400 th anniversary of slavery in America. It places "Black Americans, consequences of slavery, and contributions of black Americans at the center of our national heritage". Historians debate the exact dates, significance, and extent of early slavery in America. There is no argument it did exist and is the most hostile and egregious form of discrimination on the planet. Full equality and freedom as guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence is still not fully enjoyed by all. I reject all forms of racism and enjoin all who cherish diversity and freedom to join with me to challenge those who do not.
12. In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	Maybe at an immediate danger situation. As an initial intervention to stabilize. But there should be immediate attempts to contact parents.	There are an increasing number of children who are in need of mental health services. This is especially true during the pandemic. Schools are an ideal place to provide this service to school age children. LPOSD has been adding counselors, psychologists, nurses, and special education teachers. Children respond to problems at home and bringing those problems to school. Professionals at school are trained to help children deal with a variety of ailments including anxiety, depression, learning disabilities, and substance abuse. Parents are the most important part of formula. Mental Health professionals work in partnership with the parents to provide the best possible outcome for their children. Parents must support, encourage, and nurture their children at home so they can succeed in school and in life.

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14. What is the goal of education?	To learn skills & knowledge that students will use in their workplace & community.	The goal of education is to acquire the skills necessary to accomplish what ever task is assigned. Learning is the essence of education. Educated people are healthier and happier for their entire life. They earn more and are more successful. I reject the allegations that public schools are “introduction centers”. Education teaches how to think, not what to think. The educated are critical thinkers, good citizens, and constructive. They work for the greater good of us all.
15. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	No I believe it is the gateway drug to others.	I support the legalization of marijuana for medial use. Medical marijuana has been proven to be effective in treating pain and nausea. It is prescribed by medical professionals to treat the symptoms of cancer, Glaucoma, chronic pain, Alzheimers, and Epilepsy. Medical marijuana should be used only when prescribed by a licensed physician, and like all prescription medications never for recreational use.
16. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I’ve worked with youth and kids my whole life. I’ve organized & managed countless missions, opportunities. I’ve ran building projects as a superintendent. I’ve coached my Whole adult life. I own my own business. All this has given me well rounded experience with people, work ethic, budgeting, and compassion.	Four years as LPOSD trustee. Attended local regional, and state wide school trustee meetings and trainings. Awarded Gold Level Member award by Idaho School Board Association for service to LPOSD. Served LPOSD on several committees before election to school board including facilities, budget, parent district collaboration, and curriculum. 16-year volunteer at Sagle elementary school, teaching a fifth and sixth grade math club. Married 31 years, father of 3 children who attended LPOSD schools from K-12. Businessman; founder of Panhandle Forest Products 36 years ago, now has 25 employees hundreds of customers, contractors, and vendors. Education: Bachelors of Science in Chemistry, Duke University; Master of Forestry, Duke University. Soccer coach. Boy Scout leader, Church Leadership, active in professional and civic organizations.