

Watchmen Voter Guide for Kellogg School District Zone #5
*** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire ***

	Melanie R Carter	Felicia Cassidy	John C. Schroeder
<p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p>	<p>Melanie R Carter Kellogg School Board Trustee Zone 5. I am running for Kellogg school board trustee because I believe we should keep politics and agendas out of classrooms, while upholding the constitutional rights of the students. We need to have transparency in curriculum selection, board meetings, and class rooms. I would also like to see life and trade skills more prioritized than they are, and even expanded. There needs to be fiscal oversight, accountability, community engagement, strategic planning, and most of all assurance of the wellbeing of our students.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>2. How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p>	<p>A. Promoting transparency in education. That involves various strategies to build trust and accountability within the educational community. Hosting a curriculum fair and allowing parents to vote on curriculum options ensures that the educational choices align with their values. Conducting quarterly surveys for students, parents, and faculty, with the result posted publicly and anonymously, establishes a continuous feedback loop and fosters a sense of community involvement. Furthermore, ensuring transparency in school board meeting by using microphones, publishing agendas, and recording and posting meetings on the school website keeps the community informed about critical decision and discussions. To further bolster transparency, the installation of classroom cameras and school bus cameras with audio that are accessible by parents through secure logins, allows them to observe their child's learning environment and record activities onto servers for legal and safety reasons. This not only holds teachers and students accountable but also maintains a respectful educational atmosphere while providing parents with insight into their children's learning experiences.</p> <p>B. Our flourishing population and the potential influx of jobs from the Bunker Mine presents significant challenges. Our school district is currently operating at maximum capacity, with the closure of Sunny Side Elementary due to a past reduction in population. To address this, I am dedicated to exploring innovative solutions, including a structural inspection of the old middle school building for potential rehabilitation into an additional elementary school. Fund acquisition is paramount, and while I recognize that property tax increases are not ideal, I am committed to seeking alternative funding sources such as grants, community partnerships, or private-sector sponsorships to support our expansion needs. An efficient budget allocation, characterized by a rigorous review of existing expenditures and transparent, community involved budgeting, will be integral in managing these funds. In addition to this, we must also explore alternative revenue streams and consider strategies like fundraising, community-driven initiatives, or potential asset sales to bolster our financial capabilities. Simultaneously, attracting highly qualified educators is a priority in accommodating our growing student population. Competitive compensation packages, professional development opportunities, and an attractive work environment will be instrumental in this regard. Together, these measures will help us address our population growth while minimizing the burden on taxpayers and ensuring a quality education for our students, paving the way for a brighter future for our community.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>

	<p>C. To improve our school district, a crucial step is implementing a more robust approach to discipline for physical harm and aggressive behavior. Our district grapples with a pervasive bullying issue, where students are encouraged to report incidents but are often met with accusations of tattling. Teachers need better training on how to address these situations effectively. Additionally, increasing supervision and teacher intervention on playgrounds and buses is essential. It's imperative to involve parents and keep them informed of the issues, with a strong emphasis on recording incidents and applying stricter disciplinary measures. Simultaneously, we must teach children how to navigate these situations and address the root causes of their behavior. By doing so, we can ensure that our children feel safe, respected, and that reporting wrongdoing is a valued practice, preventing the normalization of assault and other crimes.</p>		
<p>3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?</p>	<p>My educational philosophy, grounded in historical principles like the Old Satan Deluder Law, is built upon three key pillars: transparency, community engagement, and the holistic development of students. As a member of the board of trustees, I plan to implement this philosophy by prioritizing open and honest communication with the community, ensuring parents have a say in curriculum choices while keeping political agendas out of our classrooms, I will advocate for responsible financial management to support educational goals without increasing taxes. Moreover, I'll actively engage with the community to gather diverse perspectives and uphold the well-being, safety, and constitutional rights of our students. Together, we'll create a learning environment founded on transparency, excellence, and holistic development, much like the intent behind the Old Satan Deluder Law – ensuring that all students receive a well-rounded, quality education. The law was created in response to concerns about the spread of ignorance and the potential influence of malevolent forces, particularly the devil. Its primary purpose was to ensure that children could read and understand the Bible, as the Puritan settlers believed that being able to read the Bible was essential for resisting Satan's temptations and for maintaining amorally upright society.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>4. What role should "Critical Race Theory" have in the education of children?</p>	<p>Absolutely none ever!</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>5. Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?</p>	<p>No, we need to focus on teaching our students the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. Our students lack knowledge in more important subjects like our Constitution and Bill of Rights, history, geography, science, and cursive. Cursive is more important than diversity, equity and inclusion, without it our future generations will not be able to read old records and documents.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>
<p>6. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?</p>	<p>I believe Charter Schools can be a valuable resource for our communities. Nevertheless, upon thoughtful reflection, I am of the opinion that they should not rely on funding from the Federal Government. When Charter Schools accept federal funding, it raises concerns about the potential influence of the government in shaping curricula, which could result in the exclusion of religious elements.</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>	<p>No Response Received</p>

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7. Should children be allowed to access obscene materials through school libraries? Please base your answer on the federal definition of obscenity.	Absolutely not! According to the federal definition of obscenity, which typically refers to material that lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value and appeals to indecent interests, school libraries should primarily house non-fiction and classic literature, with a focus on research materials. Of course, children’s libraries may include age-appropriate books for younger readers.	No Response Received	No Response Received
8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	It’s important to emphasize that I do not condone or support the promotion of mental disorders or euphoric states in any way. Furthermore, I do not endorse or encourage any particular gender identification ideas. I believe that schools should primarily serve as environments for learning and physical activities without delving into issues related to preferred gender identification or any other personal beliefs.	No Response Received	No Response Received
9. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	<p>As a candidate for the school board, I am committed to fostering the highest level of parental involvement and transparency in our school district’s counseling services. It’s essential that we have a system in place that ensures children receive the support they need without any hidden agendas or influences. Here’s how I propose we achieve this:</p> <p>A. Parental Consent Forms: Prior to the commencement of any counseling sessions for a student, we should provide parents or legal guardians with comprehensive consent forms. These forms will clearly outline the nature of the counseling services, their objectives, and the expected benefits for the students. Parents will have the opportunity to carefully review and discuss these forms with the school counselor. Any questions or concerns they have will be addressed, and it will be made explicit that counseling services are entirely voluntary.</p> <p>B. Full Parental Inclusiveness: I understand that parents play a crucial role in their child’s education and well-being. It is vital to encourage and support their active participation in the counseling process. This might include periodic meetings with the school counselor, where parents can receive updates on their child’s progress and collaborate on strategies to assist their child. I encourage parents to share any pertinent information or concerns they may have regarding their child’s well-being. Such information will be invaluable in tailoring the counseling process to meet the specific needs of each student.</p> <p>C. Session Recordings: To ensure accountability and transparency, all counseling sessions will be recorded. These recordings will be securely stored and accessible only by authorized individuals. Recordings will serve two crucial purposes. Firstly, they will maintain a record of the sessions, enabling us to evaluate and continuously improve our counseling services. Secondly, they will act as a safeguard, ensuring that the focus of the sessions remains on the child’s well-being and that they are free from undisclosed agendas or influences. Privacy and Confidentiality: It is essential to stress that, while sessions are recorded, the privacy and confidentiality of the child will always be respected. Access to these recordings will be strictly limited to those who have a legitimate interest in the student’s well-being. I will require all participants, including counselors and parents, to honor the confidentiality and privacy of the counseling process.</p> <p>This comprehensive approach to obtaining parental consent and recording counseling sessions is designed to build trust, enhance communication, and ensure that our counseling services remain firmly focused on the well-being of our students. The primary goal is to provide them with the support they need to thrive academically and personally.</p>	No Response Received	No Response Received

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10. What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion or change their gender without parental notification?	Never, acceptable under any circumstances!	No Response Received	No Response Received
11. Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	No, I do not support the 1619 project because the project is controversial, it challenges traditional historical narratives, sparking debates about the role of slavery in shaping the nation's identity and values. It overemphasizes slaver's influence, downplays other factors, and raises questions about historical accuracy.	No Response Received	No Response Received
12. In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	Absolutely never, under any circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental consent and participation. Such actions would be an encroachment on parental rights, and could lead to the introduction of ideological influences into children's lives, and the promotion of propaganda. If a student alleges parental harm, it may be more appropriate to initiate a formal investigation, involving law enforcement if necessary.	No Response Received	No Response Received
13. Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	The parents.	No Response Received	No Response Received
14. What should the goal of education be?	I believe that schools should primarily serve as environments for learning and physical activities, without delving into issues related to preferred gender identification or any other personal beliefs.	No Response Received	No Response Received
15. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	No, I do not support the legalization of marijuana primarily due to the scientific evidence indicating its potential harm to the human brain. Research suggests that marijuana use, especially during adolescence, can have adverse cognitive and psychological effects. Moreover, there is a risk of marijuana being laced with other drugs or toxic substances, posing a serious health hazard. It's perplexing that while cigarette ads have been banned for their well-established health risks, billboards promoting marijuana exist. This creates a concerning double standard. In essence, I oppose legalization due to the health concerns and inconsistencies surrounding this controversial issue.	No Response Received	No Response Received
16. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	As a 20-year homeschooler and a mother of nine – three of whom currently attend public school - I possess a unique perspective on education. My extensive experience in homeschooling has equipped me with a deep understanding of personalized learning and the importance of parent-teacher collaboration. In addition, my role as a bookkeeper for my husband's IT company has honed my financial abilities, a skill crucial in managing a school district's budget effectively. My credentials as a licensed realtor, holding the GRI designation, demonstrate my commitment to professional development and my ability to navigate complex systems. This experience has provided me with valuable skills in negotiation, communication, and community engagement, which are vital when working collaboratively with the school board, parents, teachers, and the community at large. I am dedicated to ensuring the highest quality of education for our children and look forward to applying my diverse background to serve our school district effectively.	No Response Received	No Response Received