

## Watchmen Voter Guide for Lakeland School District Zone #2

*\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \**

	Thomas "T.J." Barnhart	<a href="#">Ramona Grissom</a>	Cherish Hansen
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	Ramona Grissom - Lakeland Joint School District trustee, zone 2. I'm running for reelection to continue making our school district better and introduce positive changes for the students and staff.	No Response Received
2. How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	1. Increase community involvement and communication. - Community forums with the Board of Trustees, newsletter, quarterly updates. 2. More financial transparency and across-the-board transparency on the district website. 3. Updating policies, and procedures and creating a trustee training manual for continued and future use.	No Response Received
3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?	No Response Received	Education should be fun, effective, and somewhat structured in a minimal punitive environment. We should encourage students to fail. Failure builds success; we wouldn't have innovation and invention without failure. The student should be challenged with the appropriate tools to rise to an attainable goal to build self-esteem and perseverance. I will approach implementing this type of educational philosophy by working with a Superintendent passionate about education and nurturing students' strengths. We'll hire the right staff, provide a curriculum aligned with the goal, and implement policy to guide the expected outcome.	No Response Received
4. What role should "Critical Race Theory" have in the education of children?	No Response Received	No role. I wrote the resolution regarding CRT in the Lakeland Joint School District, which was adopted unanimously. You can view it here: <a href="https://www.sd272.org/fs/resource-manager/view/c70a0248-095e-422c-b289-35b69a2e0ddb">https://www.sd272.org/fs/resource-manager/view/c70a0248-095e-422c-b289-35b69a2e0ddb</a> My greatest desire is for the day we can remove these distracting social issues from education and have a great conversation about providing a world-class education to our students in the Lakeland Joint School District. We're quickly moving in that direction, and I will continue the journey with great enthusiasm.	No Response Received
5. Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	No Response Received	Diversity, equity, and inclusion aren't bad in themselves. Providing a diverse curriculum, classes, and educational tools can be the foundation of a strong learning environment. Having the same curriculum used across a grade band in all elementary schools should be expected, or offering the same classes to our high schools guarantees the expectation for excellence is identical for all our high school students. When our mission is Committed to Academic Excellence and Dedicated to Student Success, it includes all students. In this manner, I am for diversity, equity, and inclusion in offering the best free and thorough education to all our students across the district or those who desire to join us. If you're asking about the perversion of these terms, then my answer is no. I'm not interested in implementing anything that derails us from excellence.	No Response Received

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6. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	No Response Received	Charter schools provide another choice for parents and students who want a different approach to education than the more traditional public education method. I expect we'll see the growth of differing educational methods and philosophies to meet the community's needs as the community grows and changes.	No Response Received
7. Should children be allowed to access obscene materials through school libraries? Please base your answer on the federal definition of obscenity.	No Response Received	It's disheartening we have to ask this question and have this conversation about children and education. Any respectable adult should answer no. It is inappropriate for schools to allow access to resources that fit the federal definition of obscenity. School libraries are to provide students with tools that will enhance their education and their intellectual growth. Trustees must thoughtfully choose their library's materials to offer students the essentials for their academic experience and protect them from inappropriate material. Trustees should always obtain parental input and consider the children's ages and maturity levels when approving library material or any material meant for educating our students. I always ask myself if there is a more intellectually stimulating alternative when we have material with varying opinions. Sometimes, there isn't, and my vote is "no," other times, it's a parental opt-in form for their student to participate in questionable content or activities.	No Response Received
8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	No Response Received	I support student safety at all our schools. Children, and all people in general, learn best in a safe and hospitable environment. I support children using facilities at school, bathrooms, or locker rooms that are consistent with their biological sex. Girls in girls' locker rooms and bathrooms and boys in their facilities. If a student needs accommodations, the school should provide accommodations to keep all students safe at school.	No Response Received
9. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	No Response Received	Parents and school counselors should work together to improve students' well-being and academic success. It's important and impactful to the student's overall education experience when they see the parent and counselor working together for their betterment. Each circumstance is unique and should be approached with understanding, respect, and a shared dedication to the student's success. The parent always holds final authority in the collaborative plan, and the school must supply any special education requirements or 504 plans to fulfill the student's needs adequately.	No Response Received
10. What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion or change their gender without parental notification?	No Response Received	In the educational organizations of our community, this is not appropriate. We must maintain a laser-like focus on education as a community and let the appropriate institutions handle other problems. Only the parent and child should decide how to handle these moral and physiological challenges. Parent bears all moral and legal responsibility for their child. Except in the case of a parent abusing their child physically, mentally, or sexually, no institution should ever undermine the relationship between a parent and child.	No Response Received

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<b>11.</b> Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The resolution mentioned in question number four is related and I do not support teaching the 1619 Project at the K-12 grade levels, and I support the Woodson Institute's view on this subject. Black America, or any other America, has never been defined by one idiosyncratic experience but by a collective of failures and triumphs of humanity on our journey toward the American Dream.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>12.</b> In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	<b>No Response Received</b>	There's always time to notify a parent. No child should receive any medical treatments or interventions without the direct approval of the parent. If an imminent danger exists, the student must be kept safe, and other students in proximity may also be in imminent danger.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>13.</b> Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The parent has the sole responsibility for the education of their child.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>14.</b> What should the goal of education be?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The goal of education is multifaceted and includes the acquiring of knowledge and skills for personal development and the exercise of critical and analytical thinking. Preparing the student for upstanding citizenship, the workforce, and overall happiness and well-being when achieving success and contributing to family and community. Hopefully, it fosters the love of learning for a lifetime.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>15.</b> Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I do not support the legalization of marijuana. Marijuana is known to encourage illicit drug use in most individuals and promotes a life of addiction. We know scientifically the effects of marijuana on the developing brain and how it negatively impacts the learning process because of the cognitive impairment, it's known to cause psychotic episodes in individuals, and the overall adverse health risks of using marijuana whether smoking or ingesting.	<b>No Response Received</b>
<b>16.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I have dedicated almost 30 years of my life to serving my community and helping children. As a trustee, I have been working hard for the last four years to make important decisions that have helped our schools stay open during the pandemic. I had to make tough choices based on what was best for everyone during this challenging time. My goal is to continue making our schools even better and to introduce positive changes. I will remain committed to ensuring the success of our students and will take into account the opinions of parents and taxpayers.	<b>No Response Received</b>