

### Watchmen Voter Guide for Lakeland School District Zone #3

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

	Sheila Holfeltz	<a href="#">Michelle Thompson</a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	My name is Michelle Thompson. I am running for re-election of the Trustee position for Zone 3 of the Lakeland Joint School District, in Rathdrum, Idaho. I have committed four years to this position, and there is still more work to be done.
<b>2.</b> How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<b>No Response Received</b>	Our school district is turning the corner and returning to the foundations of education. The curriculum desperately needs to be improved. Prior administration left our educators to fend for themselves regarding curriculum. Educators were working without curriculum or bits and pieces of 25 year old adoptions. We have been able to provide vetted curriculum in two core subjects. We need to provide more through the curriculum adoption process as the funds allow.
<b>3.</b> What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I believe we need to get back to the foundation of education. We are shortsighted on the basics. All children are naturally curious and enjoy learning. Children are eager and willing to absorb the information they are provided with; therefore, we need to continue to partner with parents for the betterment of their child's education, collaboratively creating an educational environment where all children are receiving a solid foundation that can be built on year after year to create strong, successful, members of society.
<b>4.</b> What role should "Critical Race Theory" have in the education of children?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Critical Race Theory should not have ANY role in the education of children. The 'theory' is subjective, at best, and the ability to teach something that is based on subjectivity from a position of 'fact' is dangerous. Teaching 'white' children they are racist; they are the 'oppressors'; they are the 'bad' people does NOTHING to prevent, overcome, or resolve racism. It does the opposite by promoting and supporting discrimination against another race – white children. Teaching children of various ethnicities they are 'victims' and should embrace their 'victimhood' is ludicrous and does a disservice to children. Children should not be taught to hate, which is exactly what critical race theory promotes.
<b>5.</b> Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I do not agree with the philosophical pretense of diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is a subjective partisan perspective and placing it into curriculum creates divisiveness which doesn't benefit children at all.
<b>6.</b> What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I believe we've seen growth in charter schools because parents want to be included in their child's education. Charter schools are able to provide a stronger learning environment with smaller class sizes. They are family oriented; they have a more rigorous selection for teachers; there are fewer discipline problems; and there are more autonomous learning opportunities. All of these traits benefit the educational environment of children.
<b>7.</b> Should children be allowed to access obscene materials through school libraries? Please base your answer on the federal definition of obscenity.	<b>No Response Received</b>	NO! Children should not be allowed to access obscene materials through school libraries. The conditions of the 'three-pronged test,' of the federal definition of obscenity, promotes too much ambiguity within the criteria. The reality is it is not the public school's responsibility to expose children to offensive material, nor is a public school library required to carry those types of books. Respecting some parents may not find material offensive or feel their children have the 'right' to read it, any child may go to the public library and check the material out there. I would rather err on the side of caution and choose not to accept any type of offensive material into any of our school libraries than to harm or expose one child.

	Sheila Holfeltz	<u>Michelle Thompson</u>
<b>8.</b> Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification. Biological sex is non-negotiable. Providing reasonable accommodations for a child who prefers to be identified as a person of the opposite of his or her biological sex is a fair compromise. There are staff bathrooms that offer privacy and a safe environment for the child and ensures other children who are biological females or biological males have the same privacy and safety in the required 'girls' or 'boys' bathrooms or locker rooms.
<b>9.</b> How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	<b>No Response Received</b>	School counselors need to keep parents at the forefront of any concerns or issues regarding their child. Communication is critical. No one has the right to take a parent's right, to be informed about their child, away from parents.
<b>10.</b> What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion or change their gender without parental notification?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Abortion and gender issues are family matters. School districts should not assume authority on these matters by provide service or counseling for or against abortion; or providing service or counseling on gender issues. Again, these are family matters.
<b>11.</b> Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I do not support The 1619 Project. These series of essays, which contained <u>significant</u> factual errors and overstatements, were attempts to change how American history is viewed by focusing on how slavery affected people and contributed to the struggles of the black American today. You can't change the truth by creating false stories to support an inaccurate narrative.
<b>12.</b> In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Students shouldn't be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification. They are minors! IC § 32-1011 states, "PARENTS (emphasis added) who have legal custody of any minor child or children have the FUNDAMENTAL (emphasis added) right to make decisions concerning their care, custody and control." School districts, teachers, counselors, employees, and third parties, do not have the right to make decisions for other people's children.
<b>13.</b> Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Parents have the responsibility for the education of their children, and parents are not revoking their responsibility by utilizing a public education system.
<b>14.</b> What should the goal of education be?	<b>No Response Received</b>	The goal of education is to provide opportunities for children to acquire knowledge and skills that will support their development of becoming successful community members. Education needs to produce readers, writers, math enthusiasts, and solid critical thinkers!
<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. The effects of marijuana on the brain and the body are detrimental for any user, habitual or recreational. Marijuana has more carcinogenic properties than tobacco; can trigger psychotic symptoms and episodes; and can cause aggressive behaviors contributing to violence.
<b>16.</b> What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I've been a trustee for the last four years. I have gained an immense amount of knowledge, while working for the people, as a trustee that I couldn't have gained any other way. Prior to becoming a trustee, my experience in the education arena, legal field, mental health field, and social work industry have all contributed to who I am and how I view things. I am always willing to listen, provide empathy, and collaboratively seek solutions for the benefit of our children, parents, staff, and community.