

Watchmen Voter Guide for St. Maries School District Zone #5

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

	Tom Ebert	Seth Stoke	Jody Terrell
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	No Response Received	No Response Received	My name is Jody Terrell, and I am running because I have been on the board for the past 4 years and the current board (2020-2024) has worked well and each of us have the common goal to put our decisions based on the students, parents, teachers, staff and administration first without politics. As a board we have accomplished many things. We are united and if there is a difference of opinion, we leave respecting all. The providing quality education and a safe and secure environment for of our students to learn is a top priority.
2. How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	No Response Received	No Response Received	I believe the top three issues needing improvement and transparency to the community where each board member can communicate with their district without fear of being sued or statements are twisted to "make news". We have already accomplished most of this by videotaping our board meetings and offering our addenda's to anyone that wants one. Also, in these days and times, we need to increase revenue because of the old building and repairs needed to maintain schools. My third is to be more visible to the public, administrators, teachers, staff and the students.
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	No Response Received	My education philosophy is it takes a village to raise a child. Children learn much from their families in the first five years of their life more than any other time in their life. Parents or guardians plant the seeds to having a successful adult or an adult in need or depending on the community to support them. Sometimes this is not the best education they could have because many families are broken. There is a lack of respect in the parents for each other, and authority. There is also drug use, alcoholism, and some children are raised in a camper trailer with no parental supervision. Then they come to our schools far behind other students. Education starts with the parents. Do they read to their children? Do they talk to their children? Do They honor and respect their partner and authority? The answer to these questions pretty much answers the questions as to what the school district can do after five years to cultivate outstanding adults.
4. What role should "Critical Race Theory" have in the education of children?	No Response Received	No Response Received	This is a theory and has not been proven so I personally feel it should not be a part of our school district in any way. I believe all men and women are created equal and I go with God's laws (love you neighbor, love God etc...) I would do anything in my power to not have CRT in St. Maries School District.
5. Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No Response Received	No, I would not support diversity, equity, or inclusion in our curriculum. If we follow the principles put forth in the Bible, this is what we should do. All students should have the same opportunity to have the same quality education and if some are lacking I feel we should address the issues. If we treat one race or faith or group differently we are risking offering that education to a group that is not included in that part of the education. Why can we come to the agreement that what is good for one should be offered for all. It is like in employment the best qualified person should get the job. It shouldn't be based on gender or age, race, or faith. The best qualified. If some students are not getting the best education that should be rectified. God created all people and loves all people. He does not love sin.

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6. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	No Response Received	No Response Received	To be honest, I feel Charter Schools have their place in society and the Charter Schools I have worked with did a great job in producing mentally healthy and very productive individuals. I say we look at the whole child and the whole individual Charter School. Mental, Physical, Spiritual, Social and other health to see if the Charter Schools are doing a good job or not. I feel if the parents send their children to a charter school, they shouldn't pay School Tax. However, I do not feel they should be paid by the state an amount to the parents for sending their children to a charter school. In some cases, will the money go to the betterment of the child or to booze or other activities the parents choose to participate in rather than spending it on the child's education. Also, what is best for the child? If the charter school doesn't follow the curriculum of the state, then they shouldn't be able to issue a state diploma. They can issue their Charter School diploma and like universities that are "private" the same issue applies". Also, there are some horror stories about "home schooling" and charter schools, that think education in the woods is all the student needs, and so they don't get math, English or other subjects. I can be persuaded to support Charter Schools, but right now I think it is up to the parent who has that burden.
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	No Response Received	I don't care who defines obscenity, I believe it is wrong for a child to be exposed materials that contain any obscenity. Once you see something obscene, you cannot erase the image or statement. When a child becomes an adult, they can take responsibility to partake of obscenity or not. It is the parents task to teach the child to avoid it at all cost. I believe that children in some homes have been exposed to obscene materials before the age of 5 or 10 while in the home. It is the school's responsibility to keep it away from children, and to reinforce the concept it is wrong to follow that tract.
8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No Response Received	I support bathroom and locker rooms use based on gender at birth. I know there are some babies born with both sexes (which is very rare) and that should be addressed individually. There are other cases like Cystic fibrosis in which the student would want their own bathroom. I feel they should be allowed to use a single stall bathroom, which is available in all our buildings. I feel that God created gender for a purpose and He doesn't make mistakes. Parents that want a boy but get a girl should be thankful because there is a purpose for that little girl. Sometimes parents are too shellfish to see or wait for God's plan and take matters into their own hands. I am against gender change at any age, unless it is a medical question with a child being born with both sexes.
9. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	No Response Received	No Response Received	The key word here is "work with parents". I feel counselors are a source for parents and the child is under the school district and still a minor, the parents should be involved 100%. There are other resources in the community that parents could seek counsel for example their pastor of their church, their medical doctor etc. Now if the parents are not able to afford medical doctors or other resources, they may have other alternatives. Parents should be consulted on all issues coming out of the school, until the child graduates from the district.

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10. What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion or change their gender without parental notification?	No Response Received	No Response Received	First of I want to make it perfectly clear, I do not support abortion in any way. But again I feel the parent must have the information and right to know about their children regardless of the reason. There are many reasons in St. Maries, and anywhere, where the potential for teen pregnancies happen and gender change is wanted. These are individual instances, and I believe there should be counseling for both done, parent and child, by a professional. I feel if a child is raped, molested by a relative, the situation needs counseling. I do not believe an abortion should be the solution, but the case should be addressed and depending on the health or age of the person would be a factor. I was a paramedic for 8 years and delivered a 9 yr. olds healthy baby girls. But not all girls may have the ability to deliver a child. I also believe the case should be investigated an person that caused the pregnancy should be punished with everything the law has to give.
11. Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No Response Received	No I do not support the 1619 project. Our history books were written based on facts (and also fiction) at the time or shortly after the time period in which the incident or incidents were written. Yes, I agree we do have fables etc. and some history based on many hours research has changed. I think we should start writing our history today and learn from our history in the past not change it to meet an individuals or group of individuals opinions. I do understand there are circumstances where there are errors, but these were usually because of the beliefs at the time. We need to learn from our history and not change it to meet our needs. I seek God's word and direction. Again, I believe all men (and women) and created equal regardless of their color, race, faith and social economic status.
12. In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	No Response Received	No Response Received	No situation or circumstance in my opinion. The family is a union and all members of that family should be included in all situations or decisions. Parents need to be involved in the education, mental health or any aspect of health of their child. The Bible states "train up a child in the way he should go.." It is the parents responsibility to choose their education, counseling, medical doctor and treatment etc. We take the parents out of the equation, we lose the child. I do understand there are bad parents, however, they should be address and hopefully they can be changed to see God's way.
13. Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	No Response Received	No Response Received	The first responsibility is their parents. This is the first people the child sees when entering this world. The parents whether or not they want that responsibility is another question that need to be addressed. Let's take for example 'sex education', some parents do not want it taught in the schools. St. Maries does not teach sex education in our schools. Have you seen a dad slap his wife? If so the child has seen it and that is one of the first lessons in sex education. The child thinks if dad can do it, it must be ok. If the child hears the mother call in sick when she is not sick, they learn lying is ok. If the parents curse and scream at each other, they learn it is ok. So the schools don't get the first five years of a child's life, so as I stated earlier that is the formative years, and the schools have missed out. In St. Maries, a good share of our kindergartners come to school without the basic skills (communication, how to sit in a chair, how to relate to their teachers and fellow students, as well as basic English) I would like to have three different "R" seen taught in the schools: Respect, Responsibility and Relationships (healthy) be incorporated in the schools that would help define a successful adult.

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14. What should the goal of education be?	No Response Received	No Response Received	The final goal of education should be training our students to be successful, honest, trusting, individuals. I would like to see our schools, teach Respect, Responsibility, and building healthy relationships. I would hope our teachers and staff have great values, which show out students that all subjects taught are with love and concern for the student and this concept is what the faculty, staff and administrators hold dear. Children are our most important investment and it breaks my heart when students have to come into the discipline committee and we see one or no parent that supports the child but thinks of them (the student) as a loser or liability and has no interest in producing a productive member of our society. This has happened in my four years more than I would like to see.
15. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No Response Received	Marijuana is an entry drug and people without medical reasons should not be exposed to it. In the legalized states they are having many problems, with people driving under the influence, babies born with some of the same issues as Alcohol fetus syndrome and low birth rates due to smoking etc. My question, is why use marijuana, what is the purpose? It is also known to hurt young brains because damaging brain cells. Does this produce the healthy, successful adult?
16. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	No Response Received	I have a master's degree in education and a PhD, degree in the health sciences with the focus on infectious diseases, environment and public health. I have worked as a paramedic firefighter/dispatcher for the city of Plano, Texas. I also have been an Environmental Manager for American Airlines during the 911 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. I have taught at the University of North Texas in the Kinesiology and Public Health departments for the past 8 years and Texas Woman's University for over 20 years. I have also taken off a year to substitute in all grades through the Lewisville School s district in Texas, to get a good idea what teachers go through today. My responsibilities in St. Maries included President for 4 years for Timber Plus and served on the Beneway Hospital Better Care board for 3 years. I come from a military family and my husband served in the Army for four years and my son is a career United States Coast Guard Chief. I have a deep faith and love for God and ask Him for wisdom, guidance and forgiveness on a daily basis. I love children and want them all to succeed.