

# Richland One School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this candidate questionnaire.

GROW is a non-partisan, pro-public education 501(c)(4) organization dedicated to improving educational outcomes for children in Richland County School District One (Richland One) through education, advocacy, and leadership accountability.

An informed public is integral to a successful election. In that spirit, please answer the following questions. GROW reserves the right to publish candidate responses, in whole or in part, with attribution. If a candidate does not respond, GROW reserves the right to share a "Did Not Respond" statement.

**All responses must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 22, 2024.**

Thank you for your time and for running for office.

Email \*

agb101@att.net

Name \*

Angela G. Brown

What seat are you running for? \*

At-Large

Seat 2

Seat 4

What in your background leads you to believe you would be an effective school board member? What skills do you bring to the office? \*

What skills do you bring to the office

1. Experience: Educator with 17 years as a classroom teacher and 18 years as an administrator.
2. Data Analysis: I have effectively disaggregated and analyzed data to inform decisions and actions to plan effectively for increased student achievement.
3. Planning collaboratively with stakeholders: I understand that the importance of building and establishing relationships is paramount to student achievement, therefore, honesty, collaboration, and effective communication is key to be an effective school board member. The school board members must work with the community, school staff, and stakeholders as I did as a school principal. I understand the value of being transparent and accountable to the public.

On a scale of 1 to 10, how well do you think Richland One is fulfilling its mission of educating students? \*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Failing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Excelling

What are the top three issues that the school board needs to address and why? \*

**Student Achievement:** I am committed to making Richland County School District One a model of excellence, where every child can succeed. With your support, we can achieve this vision and create a brighter future for our students and our community.

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Recruiting and retaining teachers is crucial for improving student learning. Unlike many districts, Richland County School District One has three higher institutes of learning right in its own community which provides a great opportunity for teacher recruitment. Every successful student teacher should be offered a contract prior to leaving and returning to their perspective college/university. Teams of principals should be provided with the opportunity to visit college/university campuses to interview on site with the prospect of filling their teacher vacancies. The district should pursue avenues to provide high-quality teacher education, a strong induction/mentoring program to reduce new teacher attrition, competitive salaries, ongoing enhanced professional development, incentives, improved working conditions, and modeling by experienced highly qualified teachers.

**Transparency:** I believe every board member who pledges to serve and protect must be responsible for implementing transparent and sound policies in accordance with state laws for all stakeholders. Every board member should be accountable for the proper management of funds. The evident on the SC Department of Education oversight from "fiscal watch" to "fiscal caution" is clearly cited.

**According to the most recent test results**, only **23%** of 8th grade students met or exceeded math expectations and only **45%** met or exceeded English Language Arts (ELA) expectations. With so many of our students failing basic reading and math, it's no surprise that **39%** of Richland One high school graduates are not career or college ready. \*

In light of these results, is the current superintendent meeting expectations? Please explain how he is or is not.

No, he is not meeting expectations. The performance of the school district serves as a measure for assessing the superintendent's effectiveness. The district's student achievement data is clear evidence of ineffective leadership. Some school board members have failed to hold the superintendent accountable by allowing him to set unmeasurable goals, while students and teachers are held to specific measurable standards. This is unacceptable.

The superintendent plays a crucial role as a well-compensated and influential leader in the school district. He is responsible for ensuring that every student receives a quality education in alignment with state and federal regulations and grade level standards, as well as community values and priorities. The district's performance has continued to remain subpar for too many years under his leadership as superintendent.

In addition, his lack of collaboration, planning, and communication to lead the district towards excellence is further exemplified by the disrespect shown towards some board members when they attempt to hold him accountable, stakeholders who are seeking understanding, and disgruntle staff members whose concerns go unaddressed. There is a frequent reluctance to provide clear answers to questions that would promote transparency for Richland One stakeholders.

Per the State Inspector General's report, Richland One "mismanaged" \$31 million related to the Vince Ford Early Learning Center. This mismanagement led the [State Superintendent](#) to elevate the district from "fiscal watch" to "fiscal caution." \*

What would you recommend as the course of action for this particular project?

We anticipate that our students adhere to established processes, or they will face repercussions. I hold the same expectation for the district's leaders. Members of the current school board clearly violated the state's written process for starting construction of the Vince Ford Early Learning Center and failed to be transparent to the stakeholders concerning their actions.

It is crucial to thoroughly review the funds allocated for this project, alongside the cease and desist order from the State Department of Education, and convey information to our stakeholders. Additionally, a transparent plan moving forward, with guidance from the State Department of Education and attorneys, to address the construction issues while minimizing expenses. It would be important for the district to host a series of Town Hall meetings to hear from for stakeholders. The various costs and potential lawsuits encountered from this project would have to be taken into consideration to plan for next steps and restore trust with our stakeholders via multiple media outlets. I believe it is important to conduct regular budget reviews to track actual expenses against the budget and adjust. The board must also collaborate with external auditors and attorneys to remain compliant with financial regulations

As a school board member, will you pledge to: \*

	Yes	No
make your decisions in an open and transparent manner that is compliant with FOIA laws?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
govern by the established school board policies?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
prioritize dollars going into the classrooms versus administrative overhead?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
set measurable goals and expectations for the superintendent regarding student academic achievement?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

What kind of actions do you support to hold the superintendent accountable for meeting goals and expectations? \*

1. Establish clear and measurable goals for student achievement with regular evaluations with quarterly benchmarks.
2. Establish a plan of action for improvement of management of funds.
3. Establish a plan to address deficiencies of all school buildings and grounds.
4. Establish a plan to improve relationships with stakeholders with feedback from students, staff, parents, and the community.
5. Establish a plan to build employees' moral.
6. Establish a plan to ensure safety for all stakeholders.

Is there anything else you want to share with GROW regarding your candidacy?

In addition to what has already been communicated. I am running because I am frustrated with the current subpar performance of Richland County School District One. It is crucial and it is time to rebuild and earn trust with our stakeholders. Together, we can create an environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive academically and personally. I believe in fostering open communication between the board, teachers, parents, and the community to ensure that every voice is heard and valued. With a focus on equity and inclusivity, we can address the diverse needs of our student population and provide the resources necessary for their success. Moreover, I am dedicated to promoting transparency in all board operations. By regularly updating the community on our progress and decisions, we can build a foundation of trust and mutual respect. I vow to listen to stakeholders' concerns, advocate for children's needs, and work tirelessly to improve our district. Our children deserve a quality education that prepares them for the future, and it is our responsibility to deliver that. I am committed to making Richland County School District One a model of excellence, where every child has the opportunity to succeed.

This form was created inside of Watershed Consulting Group.

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