

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 *

john@black4r1.com

Name *

John Black

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? *

My background as a community leader has given me the opportunity to visit with neighborhood and community groups throughout the county. I have been an advocate for others and plan to take my advocacy skills and use them to benefit Richland One.

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 type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" 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? *

Teacher Retention, Student Safety/Success, Transparency/Communications

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.

I feel that its a failure at all levels, not just the superintendent. It's imperative that teacher be provided any and all resources needed in order to ensure our children are properly educated and meeting the basic requirements of the state. The school board is failing the district and the superintendent by not providing him the necessary corrective measures needed.

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?

Going back to the drawing board and ensuring the application process has every i dotted and every t crossed. Ensuring that every board policy is complied with as well as every county, state and Dept of Education guideline is complied with but most important, do not proceed without having any necessary approvals or permits physically in hand.

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?



govern by the established school board policies?



prioritize dollars going into the classrooms versus administrative overhead?



set measurable goals and expectations for the superintendent regarding student academic achievement?



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

The board must set measurable goals to determine if the superintendent if meeting them.

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

