

March 2026

## Candidates Corner

### Heidi Fausel Candidate for Lee County School Board District 1

I'm running for School Board because I believe that the only way for us to have a future is to invest in our students and give them a fact-based education and an environment where they are safe to develop and grow as our future depends on it.



My background brings a new perspective to education in Florida as I was an English teacher and ran several English Departments in the French public school system for about 30 years and as well a being voted onto various school board there by colleagues or fellow parents. Those years made me into a voice for students and young people as I learned how amazing they are; they bring a longing for fairness and true curiosity of how our world functions, as long we as educators nourish it instead of stifling it.

When I was part of school boards there, I often found that students' voices were not heard nor always listened to, so it became my mission to be their voice, to have their interest at heart. When I arrived in Florida in 2024, I found this to be true on the Lee County School Board as well. The motivation to run for School Board came from going to several meetings and realizing the abundant lack of transparency used by most of its members; learning that our school district has over 8 billion dollars of debt but no answers of to whom, and that the concept of democracy seems to be unfamiliar to most board members.

In comparison to New York state where I was born, our Florida students lag a year behind their northern peers according to parents who moved to this Sunshine state, and Lee County is ranked 9th in this state. This is a serious concern that must be turned around make us shine. So once again I feel the urge to make our students count, as well as their teachers and parents. To listen to their concerns, to have conversations with all involved to improve the school system, and ensure they can thrive and learn how to contribute to our common future.