

Bran McAllister

for

Okaloosa County School Board, District 5

“A New Day for Okaloosa Schools”



PRINCIPLES, VALUES:

- ★ Integrity first.
- ★ Service before self.
- ★ Excellence in Education.



THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Based on public law and policy, the school board is a critical public link to public schools, serving the community in several important ways:

- ★ The school board looks out for students. Education is not a line item on the school board’s agenda—it is the only item. Student safety is the highest priority.
- ★ When making decisions about school programs, the school board incorporates the community’s view of what students should know and be able to do.
- ★ The school board is accessible to the public and accountable for the performance of their schools.
- ★ The school board is the education watchdog for the community, ensuring that students get the best education for the tax dollars spent.

The school board is not an extension of the school district, the district staff, or the superintendent. Instead, the school board is the people’s direct link to the leadership, management, and oversight of the school system.



VISION:

Understanding its purpose, here is my vision for our school board:

A board, trusted by and responsive to the citizens of Okaloosa County, overseeing a public school system that provides world-class education in a safe and secure environment, leading ALL students to be career- or college-ready, while efficiently using the taxpayer’s resources.



MY IMPERATIVES:

- ★ Student safety is the #1 priority, and requires a new attitude and a new emphasis.
 - ★ Provide a safe learning environment for ALL students.
 - ★ Protect students from harm or threat of harm.

- ★ A new vision for the citizen's school board – one that represents and is responsive to the citizens on THEIR school board. Epitomize these traits:
 - ★ Transparent and trustworthy.
 - ★ Aware of the concerns of citizens, parents, and ALL stakeholders.
 - ★ Analytical and critical of policy, personnel, and budget initiatives.
 - ★ Pro-active – avoiding complacency and asking the tough questions.
 - ★ Accountable for the results and outcomes of decisions.

- ★ Recognize and represent our military presence in Okaloosa County.
 - ★ Show empathy for and understanding of military families and students.
 - ★ Recognize that though some military families are not voters or taxpayers, as parents of Okaloosa students they are essential stakeholders.
 - ★ Understand the challenges of funding for military student education.

- ★ Decisive, visionary leadership with integrity, transparency, and accountability.
 - ★ Thoughtful, knowledge-based decision-making focused on educational excellence and student safety.
 - ★ Innovative approaches to today's challenges.
 - ★ Strategic vision—thinking about the future instead of simply reacting to today's challenges.

- ★ Fiscal conservatism – sensible and successful business practices based on real, practical, executive-level experience.
 - ★ Demand detailed, bottom-up, zero-based review of organization and spending.
 - ★ Apply resource management practices based on extensive business and military experience.
 - ★ Seek partnerships, collaboration.
 - ★ Be good stewards of the taxpayers' money and efficiently use their resources.
 - ★ Prioritize spending focused on educational excellence and student safety.

- ★ Excellence in education.
 - ★ Preparing ALL students to be productive members of society.
 - ★ Graduates will be career- and college-ready.
 - ★ Academics, technical skills, and certifications.
 - ★ Teamwork, cooperation, citizenship, community, empathy.

- ★ Recognize the primary driver of excellence in the classroom.
 - ★ Recognize the best teachers in Florida for their passion for education and excellence in the classroom.
 - ★ Value, respect, and sustain our educational support staff.
 - ★ Facilitate excellence among educational staff by providing the resources and professional development needed to be excellent in the classroom.
 - ★ Protect our educational staff from unnecessary distractions that diminish their effectiveness in the classroom.