

Education

I graduated from Swissvale High School in 1987. I also graduated from Carlow University with a Bachelor's in Psychology and Minors in Business and Sociology. I then enrolled in a dual graduate program at the University of Pittsburgh completing my Master's of Social Work Degree and at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Work Experience

I am Licensed Social Worker who is currently employed in UPMC as a Behavioral Health Therapist. I provided individual therapy for persons with mental health and substance use disorders.

Community Involvement

As a licensed minister, I served in youth ministry for many years. I have also held youth group in my home teaching the youth biblical principles, morals and values. I was also the Director of the Outreach Sunday School Program in the former Hawkins Village Community. During this time, I organized a peace/prayer walk in Hawkins Village after the youth expressed safety concerns in their community. I have also been a part of H.O.O.P.S organization's annual community prayer/peace walks as well as the 15104 Initiative Community Group. Currently, I am a member of the Mon Valley Outreach Community Evangelism Team wherein we provided food, spiritual care, and resources to child and their families in the community.

Why are you running for School Board?

As a mother of a child who graduated from the district, I am running for the WHSD School Board to ensure every student in the district is afforded the opportunity of receiving a great education that will prepare them for success. In addition, as a mother and faith community leader, I care about concerns of the youth, and their families, in our community. Therefore, serving on the WHSD School Board would provide an greater opportunity to ensure the concerns and needs of the constituents of Region 2 are heard.

Why is quality public education important to you and your family?

I am a product of the public education system as well as my child. It is because of the quality public education my son received in the Woodland Hills School District that prepared him for higher education, receiving scholarships offers as a result of his quality public education. Thus, a quality education is crucial in setting our children up to succeed academically in higher education, in the work force and as community members.

What are 2-3 strengths of WHSD you would work to support & maintain?

I would like to work to support the Music and Theatre

What are 2-3 challenges WHSD is facing and what potential solutions do you have for those challenges?

Low student enrollment: I would like to find out why parents are leaving the district to help explore ways to improve student retention.

When faced with conflicting interests, how would you find balance between stakeholders (teachers, administrators, parents, community members, students, Board members) and make decisions?

I would focus on doing what is in the best interest of the students.

Explain the role the school board should play in determining the curriculum and what is taught in the classroom.

I believe the educators/teachers play a key role in determining the curriculum for students. As board members, we should support our educators in determining the best curriculum ensuring that curriculum meets the student's needs of all learners and preparing our students for college or a career.

If elected, at the end of your term, what lasting impression would you hope to have left behind?

That I collaborated with fellow board members, administrators, parents, students, teachers for the benefit of ensuring that all of the children in the Woodland Hills School District obtain a good education.