



## 2024 Board Candidate – Parent Seat

Ganes

### **Ellore Ganes**

Attorney at Hood Law Firm, LLC  
Charleston, South Carolina  
eganes@gmail.com

### **Check all that apply:**

- ✓ Parent/Legal Guardian of JICHS Student(s)
- ✓ Resident of South Carolina

### **College and Training:**

Charleston Southern, BS in history  
University of SC, Juris Doctor

### **Board Experience:**

N/A

### **Why do you want to serve on the JICHS Board of Directors?**

I'm interested in service on the board of directors to ensure that my children who are both students at James Island charter high school have the best opportunity to complete their high school education in the best environment we can offer.

### **Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.**

I have two high school aged children. I have volunteered for numerous activities through school, sports and dance throughout their lives.

### **Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.**

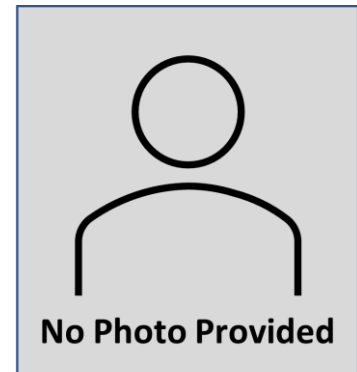
To me the difference in a board member and principal is that the board members set and review expectations for policies and day-to-day activities and the principal executes on those expectations for day-to-day activities. The principal's professional role is to be respected, and the board's oversight role is to be respected.

### **Please provide one example of something you feel JICHS is doing well. Also, what do you consider to be the most important issue for the school to focus on in the immediate future?**

I feel that the school is doing an excellent job with including all students in extra curricular activities. To me the most important issue for the school is the safety of the students and staff.

### **What do you see as the most important factors affecting student achievement? What is your role and what will you do as a school board member to bring about improvement in these areas?**

I believe the most important factor affecting student achievement is the safety and security of the environment of the school. Board member is important to set policies and expectations to keep the school safe and secure.





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**What do you see as your greatest strengths, and what positive additions can you bring to this board?**

I feel that I am a good listener and a good communicator. I think that could help the board function.



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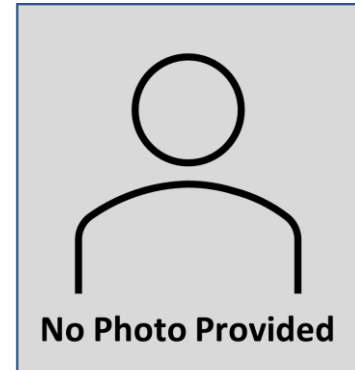
Greene

### **Gaylord Greene**

Vice President Athletic Development at The Citadel Foundation  
Charleston, South Carolina  
ggreene83@gmail.com

### **Check all that apply:**

- ✓ Experience with Business
- ✓ Experience with K-12 Education
- ✓ Parent/Legal Guardian of JICHS Student(s)
- ✓ Resident of South Carolina



### **College and Training:**

West Point, BS  
James Madison, MBA  
22 year Army Veteran, Previous Board Service

### **Board Experience:**

Prior Director at West Point Athletic Association(2017-2018), Big Brothers Big Sisters Orange County NY(2014-2017), Mason Prep(2020-Present)

### **Why do you want to serve on the JICHS Board of Directors?**

I am a servant leader. # of 4 of my children attended/attend JICHS.

### **Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.**

I served in the military for 22 years. I have been in higher education for 22 years. I understand the value of giving back and serving young people attain their goals.

### **Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.**

The board is there to advise and assist the Principal in the adjudication of running the school. We hire the Principal to run the school.

### **Please provide one example of something you feel JICHS is doing well. Also, what do you consider to be the most important issue for the school to focus on in the immediate future?**

JICHS does a good job of providing a HS diploma to our graduates whether it lead to employment, community college, 4-year university, Ivy League, or Military Service. The most important task would be to continue to do the same.

### **What do you see as the most important factors affecting student achievement? What is your role and what will you do as a school board member to bring about improvement in these areas?**

The most important factor of a High School education is Meaningful Relationships with fellow students and instructors. These relationships will set the base and the framework for future relationships in life.



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**What do you see as your greatest strengths, and what positive additions can you bring to this board?**

I will bring tangible experience as a husband, father, veteran, and higher education professional to this board.



## 2024 Board Candidate – Parent Seat

Miller

### **DeAnna Miller**

Managing Director of an Experiential Marketing Company at 82 South Charleston, South Carolina  
dmiller8107@gmail.com



### **Check all that apply:**

- ✓ Experience with Business
- ✓ Experience with K-12 Education
- ✓ Parent/Legal Guardian of JICHS Student(s)
- ✓ Resident of South Carolina

### **College and Training:**

College of Charleston, BA in Communication Studies  
Just on the job training on different boards.

### **Board Experience:**

3+ years at James Island Youth Soccer Club  
3 Years on School Improvement Council at St. Andrews Math and Science  
2 Years on the JICHS Discipline Board 22-24

### **Why do you want to serve on the JICHS Board of Directors?**

I am on my fifth year of having a child attend JICHS and have four more years to go. As my term as Discipline Committee Chair comes to an end, I feel that the Board of Directors is a great next step. The work and progress of the current administration, faculty, and staff over the past few years is admirable. I want to continue the work on the Board and have a hand in making JICHS an example for other schools in South Carolina to follow.

### **Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.**

Volunteering has always been a priority in my life, especially as a parent. From 2010-2014, I coached and served as PR Chair and Micro Soccer Director at James Island Youth Soccer Club, connecting with families who are now part of JICHS. In 2017, I joined the SIC Committee at St. Andrews and co-chaired by 2019, advocating for the school's partial magnet status. I also volunteered with We Are Family, supporting LGBTQ youth. In 2022, I was elected to the JICHS Discipline Committee and became Chair in 2023. My involvement with the school community has been valuable preparation for future roles, including the school board.

### **Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.**

In order to uphold the Charter and the community's trust, first and foremost it is important to see students succeed at school. This is done by the oversight of the Board. If elected, I know there are different roles on the board, and depending on who has what particular role would determine their



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contribution. Collectively, voting on important budgetary items, deciding on severe expulsion cases, and monitoring different leadership initiatives and programs to progress the students towards success, are all a part of the boards role. The Principal plays an important role in assembling those teams/committees to ensure the Charters mission is being upheld.

**Please provide one example of something you feel JICHS is doing well. Also, what do you consider to be the most important issue for the school to focus on in the immediate future?**

One example of something that I feel is going well is teacher recruitment and retention. The teachers can "make it" or "break it" for a student. The teachers my kids have had over the years have been nothing but amazing advocates, great examples, and strong role models. There are two issues that need to be addressed at the school immediately and that is 1. Mental Health resources and 2. Vaping. I know that the Counseling Services department is working diligently this school year to expand resources and expand programs, since we are just in the beginning of the school year I look forward to seeing all that hard work and planning pay off and benefit the students. Vaping is just a horrible epidemic affecting so many people. In Discipline meetings there seems to be a direct correlation between vaping (THC), attendance issues, apathetic attitude, and low grades. I would like to work on an initiative to assist the students in kicking the habit.

**What do you see as the most important factors affecting student achievement? What is your role and what will you do as a school board member to bring about improvement in these areas?**

Two factors: Outside the school and inside the school. JICHS has a responsibility to keep students safe and stimulated in side the school. This is something we can (to an extent) control. Sometimes outside influence can impede their ability to make those strides. It's important to offer extracurriculars, in-school study opportunities, and mental health or counseling resources for students. Ensuing that every student can name their counselor, name their admin, name a club, and identify what SLT stands for is a good first step. Some kids don't even know where the nurse is. Having access and being educated on little things can make a big difference with the students in the long run.

**What do you see as your greatest strengths, and what positive additions can you bring to this board?**

I am always going to be a students biggest fan. I want nothing more than a child who is struggling to come out on top. As most of my Discipline Committee peers and Admin I have worked with will tell you, I enter each hearing neutral and make the best educated decision on behalf of the student. I also believe keeping teachers and staff safe and engaged is also important. A happy faculty is the heartbeat of any school. Additionally I am punctual, collaborative, receptive, and fair.



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Schumacher

### **Nick Schumacher**

Construction & Development at DECO & Self Employed Consultant  
Charleston, South Carolina  
nickschumacher@gmail.com



### **Check all that apply:**

- ✓ Experience with Business
- ✓ Parent/Legal Guardian of JICHS Student(s)
- ✓ Resident of South Carolina

### **College and Training:**

Clemson University, Construction Science & Management / Business  
Service as Committee Chairs and Officer roles on multiple non-profit boards over the past 20 years.

### **Board Experience:**

JICHS Trojan Club board (Current President, past Fundraising Chair)  
City of Charleston Housing Authority Board - Commissioner (2021-Present)  
Camp Road Middle School - School Improvement Council (2 terms - 2020-2024)  
Board Member, Major Fundraising Chair, Facility Committee & Past-President - The First Tee of Greater Charleston (2016-Present)  
Board Member - Lowcountry YMCA (2018-2022)  
Operation Home Volunteer (2008-Present)  
American Heart Association Volunteer  
March of Dimes Volunteer

### **Why do you want to serve on the JICHS Board of Directors?**

I have lived on James Island for about 20 years. My kids have attended Harbor View, Stiles Point, Camp Road, and now JICHS. We love The Island, and I want to do my part to help JICHS be the best it can be for my children, and all of its students.

I think that schools are the heart of the community, and I want JICHS to continue to be a source of pride for all of James Island for years to come. I will work passionately to help make us the gold standard for public high schools in the CCSD.

### **Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.**

My career has revolved around people, processes, project management, finances & budget management, and buildings/facilities. My service with the Trojan Club has provided a glimpse into how the school operates, and should help me quickly contribute to the Board.

I enjoy taking on complex problems and navigating the logistics, budgets, opinions, politics, and other factors it takes to solve them. My years of service and volunteer work have exposed me to all sorts of challenges. I've seen good and bad ways to deal with them. I've learned from both, as a board member, and in leadership roles, and it has expanded my creativity in problem solving.



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I have learned that when a board is collaborative, humble, energetic, and not afraid of a challenge, the sky is the limit and "impossible" goals can become possible.

### **Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.**

I believe that the role of the Board is to provide vision and prioritize the goals of the school, along with guidance and governance support. I believe the Principal's role is to carry out the day-to-day responsibilities necessary to execute the Board's policy, manage faculty and staff, and to communicate transparently with the Board about the effectiveness of its initiatives and decisions. I look forward to learning more about this relationships, if given the opportunity to serve.

### **Please provide one example of something you feel JICHS is doing well. Also, what do you consider to be the most important issue for the school to focus on in the immediate future?**

As the parent of a current Sophomore, I have learned that JICHS offers a range of opportunities for involvement to build community, and support for students who need it and want it.

I also applaud the athletic department and its coaches for its growing role in bringing The Island community together as a whole over the past few years. It's not about winning and losing (although winning is a lot of fun!). It's about the community engagement that comes from sitting in the stands during a game or performance, and how it can turn strangers into acquaintances, and acquaintances into friends. It also grows pride and interest in the school as a whole, and I think that is an asset we can use for advancement.

I don't have an opinion yet on the current most important issue, but in my experience on the Camp Road School Improvement Council, I have gained a new appreciation of the importance of making teachers and staff feel valued and heard. I anticipate that budget prioritization, staff morale, and student well-being and safety are certain to be priorities. I look forward to the opportunity to getting to know our teachers and staff members better to help identify the answer to this question, and to getting to work on the solutions.

### **What do you see as the most important factors affecting student achievement? What is your role and what will you do as a school board member to bring about improvement in these areas?**

I think that the confidence that comes from being encouraged to set challenging goals, and having the opportunities and resources to attain them, is a major factor in student achievement.

As a board member, my role would be to: 1.) Help provide a safe and encouraging environment for students to achieve their goals. 2.) Help provide the resources and facilities for the teachers & staff to guide the way. 3.) Help keep parents and community stakeholders informed about opportunities to engage and support.

### **What do you see as your greatest strengths, and what positive additions can you bring to this board?**

I love getting to know people, and trying to understanding the relationships between people of all backgrounds, so we can better work together, feel valued, and solve the issues of the day. My life





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experiences have fostered a deep network of connections throughout our community that I can count on when needed.

I'm resourceful and I love connecting the dots to achieve challenging goals and help grow an organization. I will bring a positive energy and a can-do attitude, as we work together to make the best version of JICHS for its students, faculty, parents, and community supporters.



## 2024 Board Candidate – Parent Seat

Smoak

### **Kayce Smoak**

Litigation Paralegal at The Peper Law Firm, P.A.  
Charleston, South Carolina  
kayce.smoak@gmail.com



### **Check all that apply:**

- ✓ Experience with Business
- ✓ Experience with K-12 Education
- ✓ Parent/Legal Guardian of JICHS Student(s)
- ✓ Resident of South Carolina

### **College and Training:**

Stratford High School

### **Board Experience:**

I have served for over 8 years in various Board positions at my son's previous school, Orange Grove Charter School.

### **Why do you want to serve on the JICHS Board of Directors?**

I believe serving on the JICHS Board of Directors would be a meaningful opportunity to contribute to the community and support initiatives that promote education and student development. I'm passionate about fostering collaboration, advocating for diverse perspectives, and driving positive change. It's a chance to make a lasting impact and support a mission that aligns with my family's values.

### **Describe your work and volunteer background and how it prepares you to be a member of the school board.**

My work and volunteer background has provided me with valuable insights and skills that I believe are essential for serving on the school board.

Professionally, I have worked in the legal field for over 20 years, where I developed strong skills in project management, strategic planning, and leadership. This experience has taught me how to navigate complex issues, manage budgets, and implement programs that benefit the community.

In addition to my professional role, I have actively volunteered with Orange Grove Charter School and John Wesley United Methodist Church, focusing on education and youth support. These experiences have honed my ability to listen to diverse perspectives and work toward common goals.

### **Define the difference between your responsibilities as a board member and the responsibilities of the Principal.**

As a board member, my responsibilities would focus more on governance, policy-making, and strategic oversight. This includes setting long-term goals, approving budgets, and ensuring accountability for the school's overall performance. We represent the interests of the community and work to ensure that the school meets its mission and serves all students effectively.



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In contrast, the Principal is responsible for the day-to-day management of the school. This includes overseeing staff, implementing the curriculum, managing student discipline, and fostering a positive school environment. The Principal directly engages with students, teachers, and parents to address immediate needs and ensure that educational objectives are met.

In summary, while the Board provides strategic direction and oversight, the Principal handles the operational aspects and day-to-day functioning of the school. Our roles are complementary, working together to achieve the best outcomes for students and the community.

**Please provide one example of something you feel JICHS is doing well. Also, what do you consider to be the most important issue for the school to focus on in the immediate future?**

One example of something JICHS is doing well is its emphasis on community engagement and partnership programs. Initiatives that connect students with local organizations and resources not only enhance learning opportunities but also foster a sense of belonging and community involvement.

In terms of immediate focus, I believe the most important issue is addressing the academic achievement gaps that may have widened due to recent disruptions. Implementing targeted interventions, such as individualized support for students who need it most, will be crucial in ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

**What do you see as the most important factors affecting student achievement? What is your role and what will you do as a school board member to bring about improvement in these areas?**

I believe the most important factors affecting student achievement include social and emotional support, family engagement, and adequate resources.

As a school board member, my role will be to listen to the community, collaborate with educators, and drive policies that prioritize these factors, ultimately creating an environment where all students can succeed.

**What do you see as your greatest strengths, and what positive additions can you bring to this board?**

I see my greatest strengths as strong communication skills and a collaborative mindset. My ability to listen actively and engage with diverse perspectives allows me to build consensus and foster productive discussions.

As a board member, I can bring a positive, solution-oriented approach to challenges. Overall, I aim to contribute a collaborative spirit and a commitment to continuous improvement that will help the Board effectively support JICHS's mission and goals.