



2024 Board Candidate – Community Seat

Meeuwse

Henry Meeuwse

Pastor at Bethel Presbyterian Church
Charleston, South Carolina
henrymeeuwse@gmail.com



Check all that apply:

- ✓ Experience with Business
- ✓ Experience with K-12 Education
- ✓ Resident of South Carolina

College and Training:

Western Michigan University, BA
Western Mich Univ, University of Kentucky, MA
Public Charter School Alliance of South Carolina; Boundary training-Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery

Board Experience:

James Island Charter HS, Treasurer, School Years 2018-19/19-20 & 2021-22/22-23. Charleston Area Senior Center, 2000-Current; Ansonborough Housing, 2000-Current; SC-Presbyterian School of Theology, Council Chair, 2015-Current; Shepherd Council of the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery (PCUSA), 2022-Current.

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

I have a sincere interest in, and time to serve the JICHS. Three of our children attended this school. I live in an adjacent neighborhood, close enough to hear the sounds of the band and the excitement of those attending sports events. I am proud of the work, success, and passion of the school's teachers, administrators, counselors, and support staff. Having served previously on the disciplinary committee and school board, I am interested in serving another term on the board, helping to support and encourage the work of this incredible community resource.

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

I have served on numerous community, non-profit, faith-based, and government organization boards throughout my life. While the specific mission of these organizations may be different than that of a school board, every volunteer opportunity helps prepare for the act of service. Having served as an advisory member of the JICHS disciplinary committee, and as a board member and treasurer of the JICHS for two terms, I have the knowledge, practice wisdom, and pleasure of working with the school principal, assistant principals, financial management team, and school leadership team. While every school year presents unique situations, opportunities, and challenges, my previous volunteer service has helped prepare me to serve the JICHS as a board member.

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

The board is responsible to help set and evaluate policies, develop an annual budget, explore long term



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building and personnel needs, advocate for the needs of students, and engage/support/evaluate the administrator/principal. The school principal is tasked with implementing and managing the school policies and procedures, lead in setting the school's vision for teaching and learning, guide budget management, employ and evaluate professional staff, engage with students and parents/guardians, make connections within 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?

The Career and Technology Center at JICHS is a recent addition to the JICHS campus. This beautiful building of 30,000 square feet contains state-of-the-art computer labs, health science labs, sports medicine, engineering, culinary art space, and building construction/management space. These varied technology offerings allow students to learn a trade and enter the workforce with or without additional post-secondary education/training. One immediate and important concern relates to future school budgets. With the completion of the ESSER fund program, and with the new CCSD funding allocation formula, the level of known and discretionary funds are significantly different than a year ago. This impacts current and future capital construction projects and staffing decisions. The focus will be how to continue to provide a wide range of superior educational and technology opportunities while planning and managing the budget.

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?

There are several factors that impact student achievement. One is student attendance. The CCSD recently reported the current level of student absenteeism is greater than during the COVID pandemic. Currently, 23% of students in the CCSD are chronically absent. This is less than the national average of almost 30%, however this is certainly a concern. Chronic absenteeism leads to increased school disciplinary problems and drop-out rates. While student absenteeism may not be as great a concern at JICHS, School Climate certainly impacts student achievement. Two other impacts on achievement are mental health concerns of students and engaged teaching practices. The board should support the work of the school's counseling department through direct or contracted student mental health services. And teachers should receive coaching and/or professional development opportunities to further develop their teaching skills.

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

I come without an agenda. My interest is simply to serve and support. I am committed to serve with hard work, thorough research, engaged activity, meeting readiness. My strength is relational. I listen, attempt to communicate clearly, show respect, understand my role as a part of a board. I also bring to the board the experience of having served as a former JICHS board member and treasurer. I have lived on James Island for thirty years. I love this community and our JI schools. Serving as a JICHS board member is an honor.



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Woodall

Catherine Woodall

Senior Account Executive at B&B Oil Company Inc
Charleston, South Carolina
cwoodall@bb-oil.com



Check all that apply:

- ✓ Experience with Business
- ✓ Resident of South Carolina

College and Training:

College of Charleston

I served on the JICHS Board of Directors for the 2021-2023 school years.

Board Experience:

21/22 JICHS Board of Directors Vice Chair.

22/23 JICHS Board of Directors Vice Chair.

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

I love James Island High school. I previously served on the BOD as a parent and believe I have much to contribute as a community member. I want to support the faculty and students and feel that serving on the board is a great way to assist in the success of the school.

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

My previous experience on the board gave me a great foundation for future opportunities. I assisted in restructuring and revitalizing the Trojan Club and sat on the board of the club for 2 years after it was up and running. I also currently oversee running the football concession stand.

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

The BoD is responsible for ensuring charter compliance, the viability of the school and the financial health of the school. The principal is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school, the academic success of the students and the management of the faculty and staff.

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 is doing many things well. The school's report card mirrors the success our students are working so hard to achieve. I believe one of the most important issues in the coming year will be overcoming the recent budget cuts by CCSD.

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 a student's achievement is directly related to their overall lifestyle and health. Kids who struggle with food insecurity, a safe home environment, a good night's rest, parents who are available to



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assist with homework or after school activities are starting behind the line when compared to those that have these things. Students spend 7 hours a day at JICHS and I believe it is our responsibility as a school and community to help fill in the gaps.

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

My strength that will best benefit JICHS is my love for serving others. I am excited to serve on the board again and to offer whatever I am able to, to bring success and joy to the school.