

**BESE District 1
1 to be elected**



Paul Hollis

Candidate's District	BESE District 1
What efforts would you make to support students with gifts and talents?	Having been a student of the GT program when I attended K-12 in Metairie in the late 1980's, I have the first-hand experience to advocate for the GT program. In fact, out of all the educational facets from K-12, I feel that GT was the absolute most positive experience for me.
How would you support general education classroom teachers as they acquire an understanding of supporting students with gifts, talents, and gifted potential within their classrooms and instructional planning?	I remember some teachers being aggravated when GT students would leave their classroom. Most of them were not that way - they knew that enrichment was worthwhile, and they did not make it challenging to leave for the day. Anything BESE can do that would clearly convey the importance of this kind of experience, I would certainly support.
What efforts would you make to ensure all gifted, talented, and high potential students in Louisiana receive appropriate services in charter and public schools?	At every juncture, I would support efforts to protect and to advance GT in both charter and public schools. I would reflect back on my very positive experiences in the program.
Do you have further comments pertinent to the gifted and talented community?	

Lauren Jewett

Candidate's District	BESE District 1
What efforts would you make to support students with gifts and talents?	Share research about the impact of G&T programming on students and schools. Recommend alignment in procedures and implementation for G&T referrals, identification, and servicing across schools. Ensure schools offer proper training to school staff and information to families on G&T processes and that schools have a gifted teacher on staff. Advocate for universal screening tool or checklist adapted from state law to recognize which students have exceptional needs.

<p>How would you support general education classroom teachers as they acquire an understanding of supporting students with gifts, talents, and gifted potential within their classrooms and instructional planning?</p>	<p>If elected as a BESE member, I would support general education classroom teachers to acquire an understanding of G&T education by ensuring they receive proper training on how to identify and refer students for G&T services/screenings, helping them understand their district's process for identifying gifted and talented services, connecting them with strategies like UDL on how to adapt their instruction for G&T students, and how they can best support parents/families of G&T students.</p>
<p>What efforts would you make to ensure all gifted, talented, and high potential students in Louisiana receive appropriate services in charter and public schools?</p>	<p>We need better oversight for G&T school programming and this should be part of the charter school accountability framework of authorizing and renewing charters. Schools should have a gifted teacher or at least one that is assigned to the campus as itinerant. We also must ensure that we have properly trained and certified G&T coordinators, evaluators, and teachers in school districts/LEAs who use proper ways to identify students and help school staff understand how to make referrals.</p>
<p>Do you have further comments pertinent to the gifted and talented community?</p>	<p>I have taught special education my entire career, I am a National Board Certified Teacher in the area of Exceptional Needs, and I also spent a year as a special education coordinator/director in a charter school where we had a student who received talented services in theater. These experiences have led me to see the gaps we have in my city/school system as it pertains to gifted and talented instruction.</p>

**BESE District 2
1 to be elected**



Sharon Latten Clark- Unopposed	
Candidate's District	BESE District 2
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

**BESE District 3
1 to be elected**



"Sandy" LeBlanc Holloway- Unopposed

Candidate's District	BESE District 3
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

**BESE District 4
1 to be elected**



Paige Hoffpauir

Candidate's District	BESE District 4
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

Stacey Melerine

Candidate's District	BESE District 4
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

Emma Shepard

Candidate's District	BESE District 4
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

**BESE District 5
1 to be elected**



"Toby" Brazzel

Candidate's District	BESE District 5
What efforts would you make to support students with gifts and talents?	Any and all that encourages our gifted and talented students to thrive and remain in Louisiana
How would you support general education classroom teachers as they acquire an understanding of supporting students with gifts, talents, and gifted potential within their classrooms and instructional planning?	Allow our teachers to facilitate the necessary learning environment maximizing our best and brightest kids gifts. I am not a trained educator so the specifics regarding this is outside of my area of expertise. I would want to make sure that the resources are there for all parties involved.
What efforts would you make to ensure all gifted, talented, and high potential students in Louisiana receive appropriate services in charter and public schools?	We need to allow our individual schools, teachers and administrators to have the wide latitude to build out the programs that best fit the needs of our kids that are in the gifted programs. I feel that by giving the schools the latitude necessary we will discover some very effective teaching styles that we can learn from a expand with.
Do you have further comments pertinent to the gifted and talented community?	I want our kids to be the best educated and most curious learners possible. We as a BESE board need to be a group that facilitates the schools and teachers to do what is best for their students in their local area. Not all kids learn the same way and speed. I am for fostering more creative teaching programs via our teachers.

Lance Harris- No Response

Candidate's District	BESE District 5
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

**BESE District 6
1 to be elected**



"Ronnie" Morris

Candidate's District	BESE District 6
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

Jodi Rollins

Candidate's District	BESE District 6
What efforts would you make to support students with gifts and talents?	I will work to keep the programs in place.
How would you support general education classroom teachers as they acquire an understanding of supporting students with gifts, talents, and gifted potential within their classrooms and instructional planning?	Making sure teachers have training and are actual teachers.
What efforts would you make to ensure all gifted, talented, and high potential students in Louisiana receive appropriate services in charter and public schools?	Same as I answered above, but I also think the charters should have to have certified teachers and we should stop devaluing the teaching profession.
Do you have further comments pertinent to the gifted and talented community?	I am concerned that districts are using language that since gifted and talented children already score high that the programs do not make sense. I disagree. There are also children who are twice exceptional and require additional support. I have heard rumblings that many districts want to just remove it all together because it doesn't help their scores.

**BESE District 7
1 to be elected**



Cathy S. Banks

Candidate's District	BESE District 7
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

Kevin M. Berken

Candidate's District	BESE District 7
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

Erick Knezek

Candidate's District	BESE District 7
What efforts would you make to support students with gifts and talents?	Continue to support the special needs of gifted and talented.
How would you support general education classroom teachers as they acquire an understanding of supporting students with gifts, talents, and gifted potential within their classrooms and instructional planning?	Encourage their understanding of the special needs of gifted and talented students. Help clear the path away from scripted curriculum to promote more innovative methods to learning.
What efforts would you make to ensure all gifted, talented, and high potential students in Louisiana receive appropriate services in charter and public schools?	Require the services be provided by policy. Hold districts accountable to report on gifted and talented services.
Do you have further comments pertinent to the gifted and talented community?	I volunteer as a Naval Academy accessions officer, so I often get to interview gifted and talented students from the public schools. I am always impressed with their intellect and potential to do amazing things.

**BESE District 8
1 to be elected**



Preston Castille	
Candidate's District	BESE District 8
Candidate did not reply to the survey.	

Dolores "DeeDee" Cormier-Zenon	
Candidate's District	BESE District 8
What efforts would you make to support students with gifts and talents?	I would work to ensure every school is accountable to high academic standards of teaching and learning. This would include an accountability structure that effectively measures and monitors, teacher preparation, individual student performance, and literacy improvement.
How would you support general education classroom teachers as they acquire an understanding of supporting students with gifts, talents, and gifted potential within their classrooms and instructional planning?	Teachers often receive professional development on topics with in-services that include practical application. If elected, I would ensure that the support provided be meaningful, monitored, and impactful. In my experience, time to plan effectively has always been a concern. It would be beneficial to review instructional minutes, job embedded collaboration, additional support to address tasks for teachers to allow time for more interactive student learning.
What efforts would you make to ensure all gifted, talented, and high potential students in Louisiana receive appropriate services in charter and public schools?	I would support meaningful ongoing PD that effectively promotes learning and preparation opportunities. Progress of programs presently in place would be reviewed and evaluated for effectiveness and validity. I would then review other critical factors affecting learning, including access to resources that support greater student learning outcomes. In addition, all schools would be required to comply with a more aligned accountability system that measures if and how students are learning.
Do you have further comments pertinent to the gifted and talented community?	Increased engagement, Independent studies, and interactive opportunities should be provided. It is my experience that students develop a deeper sense of autonomy, critical thinking, and develop more secure in their thinking and application.