

VOTER GUIDE – NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
AVONDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, November 3, 2020
POLLS ARE OPEN 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OAKLAND AREA

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6 Candidates for School District Board Member for THREE 4-year terms

<p>CANDIDATES for SCHOOL BOARD</p> <p>THREE 4-year terms <i>Vote for no more than THREE</i></p>	<p>Question 1 (150 Words or less): Please provide biographical information and explain why you are running for School Board and relevant qualities and skills you would bring to the position that you are running for.</p>	<p>Question 2 (150 Words or less): What are the top three (3) Priority Issues facing your school district and what actions would you take to address them if elected to the school board?</p>
<p>MICHAEL T. BRADY 2670 Crofthill Dr. Auburn Hills, MI 48326</p>	<p>DID NOT RESPOND IN TIME FOR INCLUSION</p>	
<p>KELLY BRAULT 50 W. Lovell Dr. Troy, MI 48098</p>	<p>As a resident of Troy, Michigan, I have lived in the Avondale district for 16 years. My husband James and I have two children who have been in the district for their entire education, now in seventh and tenth grade. I am the Director of Annual Giving at Oakland University and have spent my career working for non-profit organizations. I have a BA in marketing from Michigan State University and am credentialed as a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE). I excel at creative problem solving and understand how to make the most of limited resources.</p> <p>I am running because I have a personal stake in the district's success, as my kids are students there. We have had great experiences in Avondale, from the teachers to athletics, the arts, Bridge Buddies and more. Most of my career has been in higher education, because education is a key value of mine. I'm also very passionate about the need for gender diversity on our board, which has been 100% male the past two years.</p>	<p>Right now, the pandemic has taken the front seat as the biggest issue for the district. While safety needs to be a top priority, we also need to do everything we can to restore in-person learning so that it's safe for teachers and students alike. This will take lots of planning, benchmarking other districts and listening to our district's stakeholders. This is closely followed by budget – funding continues to be a struggle, with Avondale having much lower per pupil funding than surrounding schools. We need to advocate for more funding as well as ensure that we're spending funds on our top priorities. I'd like to look at ways to collaborate and use our resources as efficiently as possible. I'd like to further lean on our partnership with Oakland University to help. The third priority is to attract and retain students and teachers by working to show our community how great Avondale is. We have underappreciated strengths like our arts programs, robotics, ASD support and more.</p>

AVONDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT (Continued)

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<p>RITA DAVIS 573 E. Lovell Dr. Troy, MI 48085</p>	<p>My family has lived in district for 13 years. I am mom to 6 littles and that was the biggest motivation in my decision to run for a board seat this year.</p> <p>Avondale has become our family. I have seen the ebbs and flows of the district over the years. The one thing that has always been consistent is the community. The politics will always be there, but I plan to bring the well-being and wholeness of our families to the forefront.</p> <p>I work full time for Oakland Schools in Pupil Accounting. I've worked in education for almost 10 years. Before settling in at OS, I worked at Avondale. I was the Administrative Assistant at Woodland Elementary and also worked at the Admin Building as the district Pupil Accountant and Enrollment Secretary.</p> <p>I am here to serve the community, bring a fresh perspective and diverse personal and professional lens to the school board.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The current pandemic – First I'd ask that the community collectively decide to disagree and commit. I would ensure that it is made clear to families that the decisions made are in the best interest of the students and staff. The focus should be shifted away from the tough decisions being made and more toward what's needed to move our families forward as a community. 2. Finances – I would work to increase transparency surrounding district finances and ensure that the district is maximizing existing funding opportunities. 3. Community & Communication – Encouraging effective communication strategies that reach all families to increase community engagement, especially those that potentially fall through the cracks.

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<p>ROBBIN HOPKINS 750 Provincetown Rd. Auburn Hills, MI 48326</p>	<p>I am a lifelong resident of Michigan. I attended the Pontiac School District. I attended OCC and Oakland University and I am a graduate of Wayne State University (BA Sociology) and Thomas M. Cooley Law School (JD). I live in Auburn Hills and have one student in the Avondale School District. I work for the State of Michigan as an Adult Services Worker. I worked with youth and families in the Child & Family Services Department for 10+ years. I am running for the school board because I believe the board sets the path for the district. The teachers cannot do it alone, there has to be a vision for the district with policy that benefits all the youth and holds leadership accountable to ensure there is equity and equality in education for all students. Avondale has a diverse student population but lacks diversity on the Board, in administration and with the teaching staff. I am running to promote diversity and inclusion in Avondale. I feel I can give valuable input to the board.</p>	<p>1.) Diversity and Inclusion -- Providing equitable access to education; increase activities that instill respect for diversity; integrate classrooms to promote critical thinking, problem solving and creativity. Create opportunity to attract highly qualified minority teachers and male teachers.</p> <p>2.) Educational Justice -- Make technology accessible to every student every day; Minority students are punished harsher and more frequently; Minority students are less likely to be selected for Gifted programs or advanced placement courses than their peers; provide multiple opportunities for students to see themselves culturally represented in the curriculum, in their teachers, and in the professionals brought into the classroom.</p> <p>3.) Career Path Readiness -- Programming that represents alternatives to college including: administrative, trade and industrial; Create opportunities for nontraditional classroom learning; Increase life skill education components in the general curriculum.</p>

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<p>WAYNE KAKUDA 693 Hathaway Dr. Auburn Hills, MI 48326</p>	<p>I am running for Avondale School Board because I want to ensure that all learners get an enriching and fulfilling education. I believe that my passion, work ethic, and fiscal responsibility and leadership skills will enable me to help the School Board develop and implement key strategic initiatives and policies. I am experienced in working with large organizations to identify key issues and work with stakeholders to develop and implement transformation plans.</p> <p>Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1990 Bachelors of Science GMI Engineering and Management Institute (aka Kettering University) • 1993 University of Chicago Graduate School of Business (aka Booth School of Business) <p>Professional Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2001 - Current: Founding Member of BMK and Associates • 2003 - 2020t: Founding Member and CEO of BMK Solutions, 2012 GM Supplier of the Year • 1997- 2001: AT Kearney: Strategic Management Consulting Firm. 1998 and 1999 Great Client Work • 1995 - 1997: Ford Motor Company, 1996 Customer Drive Quality 	<p>My top goal is to drive policies and decisions that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain and Find Great Educational Staff: The key to great education is to have great teachers, administrators, and support staff. I will work with the administration and collective bargaining units to implement employment terms that drive retention for our highly valued staff. • Ensure Financial Success: Long term success is driven by operating the district with financially responsible budgets. I will work with the administration to continually evaluate our spending to ensure we are spending our money as wise as possible. • Build an Inclusive Learning Environment: We best serve all in our community by listening to, engaging with and advocating for our diverse students, parents, community members, and businesses. I work hard to listen to the person's words and not guess at their motivations. This approach will help me empathize with the situations and circumstances.

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<p>LUCILLE WASHINGTON 828 Polo Place Auburn Hills, MI 48326</p>	<p>My name is Lucille Washington. I am a retired educator. I taught in the Avondale School District and in the Pontiac School District. I am married to Michael Washington and have two daughters, Fayette and Talicia, who are graduates of the Avondale School system. I am running for school board because I would like to see some gender diversity on the board. Also, I understand what teachers and students go through daily and can bring a different perspective to the school board. I am endorsed by the Michigan Education Association. I have knowledge about what happens in the classroom and support our first line personnel (teachers and staff). I have written and received a grant for a community project. I co-organized the high school's career fair in the 2018-2019 school year which provides me with contacts in the business sector.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Class size (student to teacher ratio is too large) - I would research what other districts in the U.S. are doing to address large classes and apply that knowledge to help alleviate the overcrowding. Teachers aren't as effective with 33-35 students in the classroom. 2. Health concerns with the Covid 19 virus - Work within the CDC guidelines to help address this issue. It would help to write grants or get donations of PPE to ensure that our students and staff have what's needed to keep them safe. Also, review the responsibilities of the custodial service and make sure they are aware of the consequences of not following protocol. 3. Teacher turnover (Avondale seems to have become a training ground for other districts.) - Interview teachers who have left the district and determine their rationale. Then I would address the issues using the resources available to the district.

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