

Why are you interested in serving on the Pell City Board of Education?

As a lifelong resident of Pell City and a dedicated healthcare professional, I have always believed that the strength of a community lies in the well-being and success of its children. My desire to serve on the Pell City Board of Education is driven by a deep commitment to giving back to the school system and the city that have shaped who I am. I want to be a positive, steady voice for students, families, teachers, and staff as we work together to continue improving educational opportunities for all.

Professionally, I have spent over 15 years as a registered nurse, primarily focused on mental health and psychiatric care. In my current role on the Acute Adolescent Psychiatry unit at UAB Hospital, I work with youth ages 12 to 17 who are navigating some of the most challenging periods in their lives. I assist them in developing coping strategies, managing crises, and building confidence and emotional resilience. This daily work has given me an intimate understanding of the social, emotional, and behavioral struggles that many students face—both in and out of the classroom. I believe this experience would bring a unique and valuable perspective to board-level conversations about student support, mental health, and school climate.

My motivation to serve also stems from a long-standing investment in our city. I volunteer as a youth baseball coach with Pell City Parks and Recreation, serve on the Planning and Zoning Committee by appointment of Mayor Bill Pruitt, and am an active member and Sunday School volunteer at First Baptist Church. These roles reflect my belief in community collaboration and service. I understand that effective school governance requires listening, transparency, and the ability to balance different perspectives for the good of all students. I am committed to being that kind of board member.

I want to help ensure our schools are well-resourced, our educators are supported, and our students are equipped not only with academic knowledge but with life skills that will serve them long after graduation. I believe the Pell City School System has incredible potential, and I would be honored to contribute my experience, my voice, and my heart to its continued success.

List your prior involvement in the Pell City School System or other public or private school systems.

My connection to the Pell City School System runs deep, both as a proud graduate of Pell City High School and now as a parent and active volunteer. These experiences have shaped my understanding of the school system from multiple perspectives and strengthened my commitment to its continued growth and success.

As a student at Pell City High School, I was actively involved in a number of extracurricular and leadership organizations that had a lasting impact on my personal development. I participated in varsity sports, which taught me the value of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. I was also a member of the Key Club and the Beta Club, where I learned early on the importance of service, academic excellence, and community involvement. In addition, I was a member of the Concert Choir, which gave me a creative outlet and a deeper appreciation for the arts and their role in education. These experiences not only enriched my time as a student, but also instilled in me a lifelong respect for the role that schools play in shaping the whole child.

Today, I have the privilege of seeing the Pell City School System through the eyes of a parent. My son attends elementary school in the district, and I am an active volunteer at his school. I assist with school events, and do my part to support teachers and staff, helping to build a stronger school community. Being involved in my son's education has reaffirmed my belief in the power of parent-school partnerships and shown me firsthand the dedication and effort our educators invest in their students every day.

While my professional background is in healthcare, I view education and health as deeply interconnected. In my current work with adolescents in psychiatric care, I often collaborate with school systems to ensure continuity of support for young people facing emotional or behavioral challenges. This work has further deepened my appreciation for the complex challenges schools face and the vital role school systems play in the well-being of our youth.

Altogether, my involvement with the Pell City School System, as a former student, a current parent, and a community member has been meaningful, consistent, and deeply personal. I would be honored to expand that involvement through service on the Pell City Board of Education.

Potential conflicts (Check all that apply. Does not disqualify from service)-I have children or relatives enrolled in the system. yes

Potential conflicts (Check all that apply. Does not disqualify from service)-I have relatives employed by the system. yes

Potential conflicts (Check all that apply. Does not disqualify from service)-I provide services or conduct business with the system. no

Disclose any other potential conflicts that may arise during your service. No other potential conflicts exist.

What strengths, abilities, education, or experiences uniquely qualify you to serve? Include any significant contributions to Pell City and/or the community at large.

My qualifications to serve on the Pell City Board of Education are rooted in a strong combination of leadership, service, and firsthand experience working with youth and families. With a professional background in psychiatric nursing, years of community involvement, and a deep personal investment in the success of Pell City Schools, I bring a well-rounded perspective that I believe would benefit the board and the broader school community.

As a Registered Nurse specializing in adolescent psychiatry at UAB Hospital, I work closely with young people navigating mental health crises. I help patients develop coping strategies, regulate emotions, and restore stability so they can return to their families and schools with renewed confidence. This work has not only strengthened my ability to remain calm under pressure, but has also given me deep insight into the social and emotional challenges facing today's students, including the importance of early intervention, school-based support systems, and strong communication between schools and families.

Beyond my professional life, I've had the privilege of serving Pell City in a number of civic and volunteer roles. As a member of the Logan Martin Civitian Club, I've helped coordinate service projects such as fundraising efforts to support children with disabilities. I participated in fundraising efforts for many of our local schools with this club. I've also worked with the club to sponsor scholarships for local high school students, which has deepened my appreciation for how even modest community support can make a lasting impact.

In my role as a Pell City Parks and Recreation volunteer baseball coach, I've had the opportunity to mentor young athletes and promote teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship. For several seasons, I've worked with elementary school students, most of whom attend Pell City Schools, which has kept me closely connected to the day-to-day experiences of students and their families. I take pride in creating a positive environment where kids feel encouraged and supported, both on and off the field.

Additionally, I served on the Pell City Planning and Zoning Committee, appointed by Mayor Bill Pruitt. In this role, I help assess city growth and infrastructure development, often through the lens of how changes will impact families and school-age children. I've advocated for safe neighborhood planning, recreational access, and school zone considerations and restrictions, recognizing that every city decision ultimately has the potential to affect the lives of students.

I'm also an active member and Sunday School volunteer at First Baptist Church, where I work with children and youth on a weekly basis. I have assisted in organizing different service projects and these experiences have helped me connect with students from diverse backgrounds and understand the broader community values that influence education.

Altogether, my education, professional experience, and civic involvement have equipped me with the leadership, empathy, and collaborative mindset needed to serve effectively.

What goals should the Pell City Board of Education prioritize over the next 3-5 years? Include things you think Pell City Schools are doing well and should be supported, and things you would seek to improve.

Over the next 3 to 5 years, the Pell City Board of Education should focus on sustaining its strong fiscal foundation while addressing key challenges that will shape the long-term success of our school system, particularly in the areas of culture, growth, and student well-being. First and foremost, I believe Pell City Schools have demonstrated consistent fiscal responsibility, and this deserves to be recognized and reinforced. Our district has managed taxpayer dollars with integrity, prioritizing long-term sustainability and smart investments in our students and infrastructure. In a time when many districts are forced to make difficult trade-offs, Pell City has shown it can maximize the resources it has while maintaining stability. Continuing this commitment to financial transparency and strategic planning should remain a top priority, especially as we navigate future needs related to growth and development.

At the same time, we must turn our attention to challenges that require thoughtful, proactive solutions. One critical goal should be to strengthen the student-teacher culture within our schools. As someone who works closely with adolescents in psychiatric care, I've seen firsthand how impactful a supportive, respectful learning environment can be. Teachers and students alike deserve a culture built on mutual trust, empathy, and clear expectations. This can be achieved through intentional professional development, increased communication channels between staff and students, and the implementation of programs that promote social-emotional learning and leadership development at all levels.

Another growing challenge is managing the district's physical and demographic growth, especially as Pell City continues to expand. We must take a strategic, forward-looking approach to zoning and capacity planning, one that accounts for the geographic barriers and nuances within our community, such as neighborhood clusters and railroad pathways that provide challenges to how our campuses can grow in the future. Ensuring that our school attendance areas are equitable, logical, and sustainable will be crucial for maintaining balance in class sizes, resource distribution, and accessibility. In addition to these priorities, I believe we must continue to invest in the whole student experience. This includes supporting robust extracurricular offerings, expanding career and technical education programs, and prioritizing mental health services that equip students with coping skills, resilience, and confidence. When students are seen, heard, and supported in all areas of their development, academic performance naturally improves.

Pell City Schools are already excelling in several key areas, but we must not be content to simply maintain. We must be willing to confront challenges with vision and collaboration. If given the opportunity to serve, I will be committed to ensuring we remain financially sound, culturally healthy, and structurally prepared for the future our students deserve.

APPLICANT RESUMES ARE WELCOME BUT NOT REQUIRED

ATTACH RESUME

SIGNATURE

My signature below indicates I have read School Boards & Superintendents Roles & Responsibilities and I understand and am willing to assume the responsibilities of Board Member on the Pell City Board of Education. All personal and professional information provided herein is accurate to the best of my ability. I hereby authorize the City of Pell City to conduct investigation into my background and experience as deemed necessary for the purposes of evaluating my qualification for the position I am applying for, including contacting my employer and listed references.

Electronic signature



Date

03/27/2025

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