

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

True progress doesn't happen in silos. It happens when a community locks arms, puts students first, and decides together that excellence in education isn't optional—it's essential. Pell City is a great place to live. I want to help make sure it's also a great place to learn.

One of our not-so-secret economic engines in Pell City is Logan Martin Lake. Likewise, a strong, vibrant and successful school system can be one of those engines. We want people to be here because of the school system just like they come for the lake life. Education is one of the most important investments a community can make. Doing it well and thoughtfully will serve our town and county as a true return of investment.

This isn't just an abstract passion—it's personal. My wife and I raised four children, each with unique paths through both public and private education. I've seen the system's strengths and its struggles, both as a parent and as a lifelong advocate for education. I've worked in higher education as a professor and a director of recruiting, served on seminary advisory boards, and helped guide institutions through financial headwinds to sustainable futures.

More than anything, I bring collaborative leadership to the table. I believe in working side by side with the superintendent, CSFO, school administrators, teachers, coaches, city council, mayor, and—most importantly—our families.

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

My involvement in education spans both professional and personal arenas. I served as Director of Recruiting for Beeson Divinity School at Samford University, where I was deeply involved in the admissions process and worked closely with students, faculty, and staff. I also served as a long-term volunteer on the advisory board at Northeastern Seminary, where I chaired the financial stability subcommittee—helping guide the institution through challenging times toward a healthier future. In addition, I was an adjunct professor of business at Houghton College, where I had the privilege of working directly with students in the classroom.

On the personal side, my wife and I raised four children, all of whom experienced both public and private K-12 education. Two graduated from a private Christian school; the other two from a public high school. Three of the four went on to earn college degrees. One was recruited as a quarterback at Samford University, and another was a four-year starter on the women's basketball team at Roberts Wesleyan University.

I believe this unique blend of educational experience will help me contribute in a meaningful way to the role.

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

no

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

no

Potential conflicts (Check all that apply. Does not disqualify from service)-I
provide services or conduct business
with the system.

yes

Disclose any other potential conflicts that may arise during your service.

I do not anticipate any conflicts of interest that would interfere with my service on the Pell City Board of Education. However, in the interest of full transparency, I currently serve as an account manager for Stryker, a medical equipment manufacturer. In this role, I work with the Pell City Fire Department, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, Regional Paramedic Services, and other fire departments across St. Clair County. The devices are monitor/defibrillators, automatic CPR devices, automatic external defibrillators (AED), ambulance cots and chairs.

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

I consider myself a person of integrity—someone who thinks critically, approaches challenges objectively, and works collaboratively to achieve real, meaningful results. My training as a military officer, along with the unique leadership positions I've held, has shaped my approach to leadership. It has conditioned me to lead not from a place of authority, but from a place of service and generosity.

Beyond leadership, I have a deep and enduring commitment to education and learning. My wife and I have established three endowed scholarships—two in the Birmingham area and one in Rochester, NY—because we believe in investing in students and their futures.

While I've made good choices and earned a level of success, I will never forget where I came from—a loving but broken home that endured years of poverty. My way out was built on two things: the ability to read a book and take a test well, and basketball. Excelling in both earned me a full-ride scholarship, opening doors I might never have walked through otherwise. But the hard lessons of that home life are also instructional to me as an adult, professional and volunteer leader.

I know firsthand that a great education, a wise and inspirational coach, or a smart and thoughtful teacher can change the trajectory of a child's life. That belief will guide my vision as I serve on the Pell City Board of Education—ensuring that every student has the support, opportunities, and mentorship they need to succeed.

And while my degree in business provides a solid foundation for this role, it pales in comparison to the real-world lessons learned from military service, owning a business for seven years, leading and serving on teams, and taking on numerous volunteer leadership roles throughout my career.

One of the key assignments I cherished was serving as an advisor and volunteer contributor to Northeastern seminary. As chair of the financial stability committee, I worked closely with staff, the dean, and key stakeholders to help the institution shift from financial instability to solid ground. This transformation didn't happen overnight—it took strategic planning, collaboration, and a fundamental shift in how donor giving was approached. In an era where many collegiate and graduate institutions are closing their doors, this seminary remains open and on the right path today.

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.

Doing Well:

1. The school system has made conservative progress in reducing chronic absenteeism as well as increasing academic achievement, the graduation rate, and college and career readiness.
2. Thanks to the additional 5 mill property tax, our facilities are being updated. We need facilities that are safe, secure and ushers in pride for our students.
3. Expanding student career path. Every student should graduate with a clear next step—whether that’s college, the military, a skilled trade, or athletics. The school has increased access to programs in areas like agriculture, welding, business classes, healthcare, and technology, while continuing to support students with college ambitions.

Challenges to seek improvement:

1. Maximize Funding and Collaborate with City Stakeholders.
We must use every dollar strategically and transparently. That means aligning spending with actual outcomes and avoiding waste. It also means breaking down silos and collaborate—working closely with city officials, business leaders, and other community partners to amplify impact
2. Raise the School Report Card Grade.
Improving our system-wide academic performance must be a top priority. The school report card isn’t just a state metric—it’s a reflection of how well we’re serving our students. A higher grade boosts confidence in the district, attracts new families, and strengthens the local economy. This is a direct return on investment for the city and county. It becomes a competitive advantage for us.

APPLICANT RESUMES ARE WELCOME BUT NOT REQUIRED

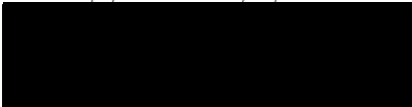
The Pell City Board of Education Steering Committee will review resumes submitted with a candidate’s application packet. Please attach resumes as PDF documents when submitting this application.

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 03/30/2025

