



# Bradley Jones

## for Hamilton Southeastern School Board

*I'd like your vote on November 8<sup>th</sup> for a position on the Hamilton Southeastern School Board.*

### Why You Should Care

Whether you have children in the public schools or not, the HSE School Board is making decisions that impact you and impact your child's future. Even if you don't have kids in the schools, the passing of bonds and referendums impact your taxes, and the quality of our schools impacts the success of our city to draw new businesses and families into Fishers. There are a lot of issues and topics that the HSE School board is or needs to address. I've listed just a few on the back.

### My HSE School Board Commitment

Friends, families, teachers, and several others suggested that I run for the HSE School Board based on my interest and passion for what is happening in our schools and with our kids. When I'm elected, I commit to:

- Putting our kids first
  - Demanding fiscal responsibility in all decisions
  - Represent you and our community
  - Keeping an open ear and an open mind to ideas that will benefit our kids and their future
  - Listening, researching, and learning so I can to make the best decisions for the benefit of the students
  - Giving my full attention to tackling the issues that have been raised (See the back side of this document for a list)
  - Putting our kids first (This was worth repeating)
- Prior to deciding to run for the board, I regularly attended HSE School Board meetings so I could be informed.
  - I've been a room parent for the past six years. I've been told I execute a good class party, and teachers have complimented the learning aspects of some of the games played.
  - I'm actively involved in our community in driving technology education through user groups and meetups. I cofounded and ran the Indianapolis Developers Association for over a decade growing membership to over 3,500 at its peak.
  - I've been recognized as a technology influencer by companies like Microsoft.
  - I've written technical books that teach people of all ages how to program computers. My internationally bestselling books take technical topics and make them easy to understand.
  - I am a board member for the Danville, Illinois Rescue Mission, which service homeless men. The mission recently purchased a new building, and will be serving short-term homeless women and children as well. (I graduated from Danville High School.)
  - I interact daily with a diverse group of people from around the world through my job.
  - I have experience with personnel issues, contracts, project planning, technology, and more.

### A Few Tidbits on Me

The following provide a little information about me:

- I am a dad of two attending HSE Schools.
- I am a regular volunteer at the schools, as is my wife.
- I prefer to solve issues rather than just talk.
- I am proactive. I also am not afraid to go to the source to get answers firsthand.
- I grasp the details needed to get things done and don't just buy into the hype.

### How School Board Voting Works

School Board positions are non-partisan positions that will appear on the November 8<sup>th</sup> ballot. It's not about political parties; it's about the students. There are three of seven school board positions up for election this year. You'll be able to vote for one candidate in each of the three townships within HSE. I'd like to ask that you vote for me to represent Delaware Township and then vote for one other person in each of Fall Creek and Wayne Townships. While we are aligned with a township, our decisions impact every student and family in our entire district.

## Important Topics for the Hamilton Southeastern School Board to Address

While the HSE School Board does a lot of smaller tasks such as approving contracts for changing LED bulbs in our schools and recognizing community and school achievements, they also address a number of critical topics. The following are just a few of the topics the school board will be addressing or needs to address in the near future:

### Our Kids: Kids First

Ultimately, it is all about the kids. Overall, we have great schools, wonderful teachers, and fantastic kids. Even so, we can continue to improve. Regardless of the area of focus or the topic, the core to any decision is the students. The following are a few kid-centric initiatives I expect the board will be talking about (or that I will be raising).

- Making sure the middle 60% aren't overlooked; making sure every student has the chance to succeed
- Supporting the related arts (music, art, library, P.E.) to give our kids valuable experiences
- Incorporating mental health programs for our children's social, emotional, and overall mental well-being
- Teaching the right world languages for our kids
- Maintaining smaller class sizes\*
- Making sure the kids in our district have get a fair chance at opportunities to learn or participate in activities\*\*

Clarifications: \*The 2% growth projected for the City of Fishers over each of the next 10 years would equate to 300 to 400 kids added each year, thus needing 10 to 15 more classrooms. \*\*Allowing out of district kids to go to HSE schools could take sport and academic positions away from in-district kids.

### Technology

One of the hottest and most controversial topics the past five years has been technology. This topic will continue to be critical as the policies on the following items need to be evaluated:

- Managing screen time
- Security, privacy, digital footprints, and related topics
- Preventing cyber bullying
- Getting technology installed and working
- Use of proprietary tech vs. standard ("Why iPads?")
- Evaluate keyboarded devices in lower grades
- Licensing, app, and hardware costs
- Confirming COPPA compliance

### Fiscal Responsibility

With an increased referendum (now at .23/\$100), an increase of annual state funding per our student allocation increasing, and the approval of capital bonds, HSE Schools has tens of millions of additional dollars. Our schools need to be fiscally responsible as well as transparent without obfuscating. Fiscal issues include:

- Address the need for more school buildings
- Evaluate updates to existing buildings – Schools like Durban require updates
- Need for a larger administrative building
- Reduce use of referendum dollars to pay ongoing recurring costs
- Lower fees for things such as pay-to-play, student technology and other fees
- Ensure competitive teacher compensation

### Teachers and Teaching

Our teachers and teaching policies are the core to our success. We need to support the success of our teachers and programs.

- Support of project-based, inquisitive learning programs (HSE 21)
- Continued education of teachers, students, parents on technology as a tool
- Avoid fads and focus on the kids
- Get the best teachers and then keep them
- Create an effective school calendar
- Support opportunities for professional development of teachers
- Promote more consistency across grade levels
- Push for a stronger focus on developmentally appropriate curriculum

### Final Message

We need to do everything that can be done to safely prepare our kids for the future, while remaining fiscally accountable to our community. Help by **voting for Bradley Jones for the HSE School Board** on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

