

VOICES FOR LAKE WORTH BEACH SCHOOLS



PERSONAL INFORMATION

NAME	Laurie Cotton
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OCCUPATION	Retired
IF RETIRED - PAST OCCUPATION	Teacher

QUESTIONNAIRE

ARE YOU A RESIDENT OF THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH?	Yes
FOR HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A RESIDENT?	29 years
DO YOU HAVE A STUDENT (OR ARE YOU A STUDENT) ATTENDING A LAKE WORTH BEACH SCHOOL?	No
DO YOU WORK FOR/OWN A BUSINESS/NON-PROFIT WITHIN THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH?	No
PLEASE NAME YOUR BUSINESS(ES).	N/A
ARE YOU CURRENTLY A MEMBER OF A CITY COMMISSION/BOARD/CIVIC GROUP?	No
IF SO, PLEASE LIST THE GROUPS.	N/A
DO YOU CURRENTLY WORK FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY OR ANY OF THE SCHOOLS IN LAKE WORTH BEACH?	No
IN WHAT CAPACITY?	Retired 6/21/21

BRIEFLY STATE THE REASONS WHY YOU FEEL YOUR APPOINTMENT TO THIS COMMISSION/BOARD WILL BENEFIT THE SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF LAKE WORTH BEACH. (150 WORDS OR LESS)

Recently retired from the School District of Palm Beach County, I have resided in Lake Worth Beach since 1992. After 41 years as a middle and high school teacher, school-based and district curriculum administrator, and college adjunct professor, I could offer insights from a [secondary] education perspective. Now that real conversations are being initiated across the country regarding diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism in education, we need to take a whole-child approach when making decisions about pedagogy or curriculum. As a community we have to know our youngsters and where they are coming from—both where they live and their unique perspectives. To accomplish this requires us to transcend our comfort zones and accept students however they show up to school. A community education board can support schools in these conversations to allow students to become comfortable with the infinite possibilities of who they are- and where they are- in their educational journey.

WHAT EXPERIENCE DO YOU HAVE WITH SCHOOLS, ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIC GROUPS, OR CLUBS THAT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THIS COMMISSION/BOARD? HOW CAN WE BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO TRADITIONALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES? (150 WORDS OR LESS)

Employment at Palm Beach State College and the SDPBC afforded me multiple experiences in public education. My responsibilities as the district Social Studies administrator included curriculum mapping, teacher professional development, grant writing, textbook adoption, and implementation of legislative mandates. At the state level I served as treasurer of the Florida Association of Social Studies Supervisors (FASSS) and as a member of the team that wrote the Florida state U. S. History end-of-course (high school) examination. I have been a faculty member at six district high schools. My most recent assignment at Royal Palm Beach High School was to craft the application to designate the school as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School. Prior to that I coordinated the career and technical (CTE) programs and worked with the District CHOICE and Career Options department. I have first-hand experience with the challenges of maintaining a balance between specialized programs designed for specific student demographics and those that are likely to have a wider impact. Lake Worth Beach residents should be cognizant of the important work already initiated by the school district. Examples include the publication of official documents in multiple languages, a non-discrimination statement and a District Diversity and Equity Committee that reports directly to the school board.

Based on the premise that talent- but not opportunity- is equally distributed, an education advisory committee would be vigilant regarding disparities regarding access to effective instruction and high-quality academic support systems, enrollment in rigorous coursework, and breadth of curriculum. I would advise the newly created education advisory board to clearly state a definition of "equity." It is generally understood to eradicate those disparities or make "equal" academic outcomes among all student groups. In the purely fiscal sense, the word has a more complicated—and potentially legally fraught—definition. Equity is likely to come under renewed scrutiny with the requirement of Every Student Succeeds Act for public release of school-by-school spending data as an element of states' school report cards. A sense of community is vital in any learning process, and members of the committee will support school outreach by helping families- our neighbors- engage in individual school initiatives.

THIS BOARD WILL MEET MONTHLY AND WILL REQUIRE THAT YOU ATTEND A SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING EACH MONTH AS WELL. ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIREMENTS MAY ARISE. ARE YOU WILLING AND ABLE TO ATTEND MEETINGS ON A REGULAR BASIS? IF NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR LIMITATIONS? (150 WORDS OR LESS)

Yes, I can attend monthly meetings.

WHICH SCHOOL/SCHOOLS ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Lake Worth Middle School (SAC meeting is at 6:00PM on the 1st Tuesday of the month)
- Lake Worth High School (SAC meeting is at 6:00PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month)