

Carteret County News-Times Election Guide: Primaries 2016

County Board of Education - nonpartisan: Districts 2, 3 and 4

JAKE GODWIN

District 2



JAKE GODWIN
Contact information:
Email: godwinjakejr@gmail.com.

Jake Godwin Jr., age 53, Millis Road, Newport. Second generation teachers, West Carteret graduate. Pembroke St. University, B.A. in education. Retired teacher, coach, volunteer with tutoring, NEA/NCAE community leader.

As an elected board (member), I would work to improve achievement, accountability, safety, provide ample resources for students and teachers, and encourage growth and partnering collaboration with business, (and) communities.

MARTY SHIRLEY

District 2



MARTY SHIRLEY
Contact information:
The public may reach me at my business or contact me through email at jmshirley54@gmail.com.

My name is Marty Shirley and I live in Newport, where I own and operate Newport Family Barber Shop. I graduated from Hargrave Military Academy and attended barber school in Charlotte. After working in Greenville and Bath. I moved to Newport and married my wife, Valerie. I have met so many wonderful people from this county

and they have given so much to me over the past 21 years, I feel it is time for me to give back and do my part. I may not be the most educated candidate, but I know people. You don't cut hair for 40-plus years and not learn something.

BENA WEIRES

District 2



Age 60.

BENA WEIRES
Contact information:
919 Church St., Newport;
252-223-5632;
bweires@gmail.com.

Married to Rick Weires, one adult daughter and one adult stepson. B.S., M.S. in education, East Carolina University, retired from Carteret County Schools in 2009 after 31½ years as a teacher and career development coordinator. Worked from 2010-14 for school system, part time, with federal WIA grant, assisting

youth with barriers to employment. Presently, works part time at CCC, with federal NCWorks grant, which ends on June 30. Actively involved in North Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education, served as state president in 2006 and on southeastern regional policy board from 2007-11. Active lifelong member of St. James United Methodist Church, currently serves as memorial committee chair, church council member and chairperson of United Methodist Women's Circle Group. Past district officer of United Methodist Women. Currently volunteers with Matthew 25 outreach program on Monday mornings. Currently volunteers with the Newport Heritage Committee and the Newport School Alumni Association. Past chair of the Carteret County Council for Women. Past chair of the Carteret County Republican Women's Club. Past member of Newport Town Council, 2010-14. Proven leadership. Knowledgeable and passionate about education. I would look at each issue fairly and make decisions based on our children's best interest.

MELISSA EHLERS

District 3



MELISSA EHLERS
Contact information:
Melissa.ehlers@carteret.k12.org.

Melissa Ehlers is a resident of Morehead City, attorney, small business owner, adjunct law instructor and Marine Corps veteran. She is actively involved in the community through her affiliations with St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the Marine Corps League and various other organizations. Ms. Ehlers served as PTO president of Druid Hills

Elementary in Virginia and is the past chair of the West Carteret High School Parent Advisory Board and past president of the Crystal Coast Republican Women's Club. She graduated from West Virginia University with a B.S. in finance and international studies and received her law degree from Widener University School of Law. She has also studied at the Mercy School of International Studies in London, England, the Naval Justice School in Newport, R.I., and the Army Judge Advocate General School in Virginia. She is married to fellow Marine Corps veteran Loy Ehlers and has four children, all of whom attended Carteret County schools. Ms. Ehlers was selected to fill the unexpired term of Mark Mansfield when he was elected to the County Board of Commissioners in 2015. Ms. Ehlers serves on the Board of Education's technology, policy and school nutrition committees, and is one of the board's liaisons with the county commission.



***Editor's note:** The races for the Carteret County Board of Education are nonpartisan and cover three districts this year. This is not a primary for these candidates but the final race. Melissa Ehlers runs unopposed to return to her District 3 seat that covers Morehead City. The District 2 seat, freed up by current chairman Al Hill, covers Newport. The District 4 seat, being vacated by David Carr, covers Mill Creek to Bogue Banks. All county voters can vote in all Board of Education races.

ROBERT DANEHY

District 4



ROBERT 'BOB' DANEHY
Contact information:
106 Loblolly Drive, Pine Knoll Shores, N.C. 28512;
252-240-2945; email,
mbdanehy@ec.rr.com; and
on Facebook.

I was born in 1938 and am married to Maureen Danehy for 54 years. We have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

Education: University of Connecticut 6th year graduate certificate in school administration, M.S. University of Bridgeport in school administration and supervision, B.S. Southern Connecticut State in elementary education grades 1-8.

Leadership: School superintendent, elementary and middle school principal, elementary school teacher, certified BEST Assessor in Connecticut for teacher evaluation. I just completed 12 years as a Pine Knoll Shores commissioner and mayor pro tempore.

Top priorities if elected: Support high scholastic standards, provide programs that enable all students to become involved citizens and assure Carteret County residents the school system is effective, efficient and safe.

Why I am the best candidate: My education and experiences in school management have provided me the skills needed to be an effective board member. I understand the challenges parents, students, teachers and N.C. schools are experiencing, I am retired and have the time, energy and enthusiasm to serve and support Carteret County Schools.

Community activities: West Carteret High School senior projects and Kayak for Warriors programs.

TRAVIS DAY

District 4



TRAVIS DAY
Contact information:
708 Bay St., Morehead City; 252-515-0101;
boe@travisday.com; travisday.com.

Age 44.
Wife, Mary Day and daughters, Dylan (Morehead City Middle School 6th grade) and Anderson (Morehead City Primary 3rd grade).

Professor of strategy and entrepreneurship, UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School. MBA and BSBA from UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School, finance concentrations; graduate of West Carteret High School, Carteret County's 1989 Morehead-Scholar nominee; Morehead City Middle School; and Camp Glenn Elementary.

Parent advisory council for Morehead Middle, Elementary (chair for two years) and Primary Schools; chairman of the Carteret County AIG PAC; Read Across America volunteer; WatchDog; EOG test proctor; "Dancing with Our Stars" winner (benefiting Communities in Schools); Girls youth volleyball league coach; faculty adviser, UNC's AKPsi business fraternity; KFBS undergraduate program faculty advisory committee; and First United Methodist Church Finance Committee.

As a current college professor, I understand the value and principles of quality education. With multiple degrees in finance, I would apply business principles in decision-making concerning the BOE's multi-million-dollar budget. With two precious daughters attending the same schools my wife and I attended, I have a vested interest in Carteret County's education system. I am fiscally responsible. We owe it to our citizens to be frugal and wise with the tax dollars they provide for our schools. I have a passion for education and hope to use this passion to make a difference in our school system.

GLENN HOWELL

District 4



GLENN HOWELL
Contact information:
Facebook.com/HowellforBOE
and howellforboe@gmail.com.

I am a native of Mill Creek. My parents, Fred and Shirley Howell, were commercial fishermen and I worked in fish houses and on farms until I started teaching in 1986. A graduate of West Carteret High School, I earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural education and a master's degree in interdisciplinary agriculture from N.C. State University.

I recently retired as a nationally board certified teacher with 30 years of experience teaching in Bladen, Sampson, Harnett and Carteret counties. I served as president of the N.C. Agriculture Teachers Association and as chairman of the N.C. FFA Board of Directors. My agricultural program was recognized by the NAAE as outstanding program in this state. I coached high school football for several years. I currently serve as board member on the Mill Creek Volunteer Fire and Rescue, deacon and adult Sunday school teacher at Maranatha Pentecostal Holiness Church and a member of the West Carteret FFA Alumni Association. I am 53 years old and an avid outdoorsman. My interest include my coastal heritage of farming, fishing and waterfowl. My avocation is gardening, landscape plants, floral design, raising poultry and advocating for agricultures and NCSU.

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We challenged candidates to take a position in 15 words or less:

What is your position on county-funded school resource officers in each of the county public schools?	Where do you stand on potential redistricting for western-end high schools?	Do you feel current funds for technology in Carteret County schools are sufficient?	The local supplement provided to teachers is often at-risk due to funding. Where do you stand on the supplement?	Do you feel teacher assistants are needed positions worth funding? Why or why not?	Do you feel security at county schools is adequate?	Please identify one area you think there is school overspending and one area you find there is insufficient funding.	The school superintendent pulls a salary of \$153,600. Do you think this appropriate? Why or why not?	Please identify one "fresh idea" you could bring to county schools with limited funds.
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District 2 candidates

Jake Godwin	Very strong! All schools should have a resource officer.	Only if absolutely needed for overcrowding. Independent study needed for outside look at problem.	No they are not. We need updated technology every year to support schools, student knowledge.	We need to keep supplement to keep good teachers and attract teachers to stay.	Yes, a must! Large class sizes need them and many are bus drivers also.	No, all schools not same for security. All security needs to be equal for all.	Insufficient areas would be vocational training. We need this! Overspending – neutral don't see based on budget.	Keep at current salary. We are lower than other school systems around our area.	Work with the college on cooperative vocational classes to find state, federal grants for this.
Marty Shirley	Yes, at least all middle and high schools should have a resource officer.	I need more statistics. Today my answer is opposed to redistricting.	No. I feel that all schools need the same options when it comes to technology.	The supplement for teachers should never be compromised.	Yes, cannot take assistants away and expect all that is asked of teachers. It's common sense.	No, I do not.	Overspending in central office and underspending for our teachers and support staff.	Cannot justify that salary with a \$10,000 increase when cuts are being made everywhere else.	I want to build a bridge between the public, teachers, school board and county commissioners.
Bena Weires	Resource officers at all county schools would be money well spent.	Redistricting = not a bad thing. All have high academic standards. WCHS and CHS = both A+.	Technology changes rapidly. To keep up with industry standards, we need a technology replacement plan.	Competitive local supplements are essential to recruiting and retaining a high-quality staff.	Assistants = vital to high-quality learning, especially early grades where homogeneous classrooms necessitate differentiated instruction.	Security needs reevaluation at each campus, putting comprehensive plans in place. Multiple entry/exit = definite concern.	Currently operate on lean budgets. Priority spending = preschool/early intervention, a determiner of future school success.	Before deciding, would compare with surrounding counties? Does amount include benefits, car mileage, phone, etc.?	More children exposed to early learning experiences and centralized career academies.

District 3 candidate

Melissa Ehlers (i)	SRO's are positive influences for students and are vital to our overall school safety program.	We must analyze geographic proximity, instructional capacity, potential enrollment and the best interests of students.	Using currently allocated funds efficiently is crucial; however, more funding would benefit 1:1 initiatives.	It's essential in a consistent compensation package commensurate with our teachers; experience and effectiveness.	I support the continued utilization of TA's as enrollment dictates and funding allows.	In ensuring we provide secure environment, vigilance requires continuous assessment and updates to existing plans.	Outside of adequate compensation for teachers, our greatest challenge is maintaining and improving aging facilities.	Engaging and retaining experienced leaders requires funding at competitive levels. I support the board's decision.	We could develop math coach programs akin to reading programs and amplify math teacher recruitment.
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District 4 candidates

Robert Danehy	The safety of students can't be ignored. Resource officers should be funded for all schools.	Redistricting should be the last resort to avoid economic hardship to families and building facilities.	Technology education is critical to student learning and funding should be increased throughout the system.	The supplement should be maintained to be competitive with surrounding school systems.	Yes. These positions are critical in the primary grades to provide individualized instruction.	I would propose that the system study security needs system-wide and adjust appropriately.	The system must increase reserves to fund unique educational opportunities as they emerge.	The superintendent's salary is comparable to other similar systems and is appropriate.	Staff to accept the concept that "All students can learn and are valued as individuals."
Travis Day	I support SROs. Beyond security, SROs serve as role models and positive influences for students.	We owe it to taxpayers to research anticipated growth and explore feasibility of redistricting.	I'm a HUGE proponent of utilizing technology, but technology should supplement/enable, not replace, teachers.	Supplements are needed to attract and retain the best teachers, our county's most valuable asset.	Yes. Assistants lessen teacher workloads, enabling more quality time for students at a lower cost.	Yes. Some security procedures are more hassle for parents/staff without truly providing any more protection.	Teacher funding is insufficient. I'm anxious to scrutinize BOE budgets for ALL examples of overspending.	Yes. Our school superintendent is essentially the "CEO" of one of Carteret County's largest organizations.	More real-world applicable skills for today's job market: computer science, technology, entrepreneurial, business and vocational.
Glenn Howell	Student safety is our first concern. SROs should be unified in their command and responsibilities.	Overcrowding leads to serious problems, so we must examine all remedies including redistricting.	Yes. Our leaders have provided outstanding technology resources for our students and teachers.	We must retain and increase the local supplement if we hope to attract quality teachers.	Yes. Teacher assistants are essential in meeting the varied needs of our diverse student population.	We have older campuses with needs that must be addressed to make our schools safer.	We spend too much on testing and not enough on programs providing local career skills/interests.	The workman is worth his hire. Professional quality leadership is costly, but critical for success.	Teacher workdays are lost to inclement weather, but there are scheduling options that preserve them.

* The symbol (i) denotes an incumbent candidate