

# 2026 SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

St. Tammany Federation of Teachers and School Employees • Local 3952

## PURPOSE

The Federation uses this questionnaire, candidate interviews, public records, and other relevant information when considering endorsements. We value responses that are specific, candid, and grounded in the responsibilities of a School Board member. Candidates need not agree with the Federation on every issue but should explain the principles and evidence that would guide their decisions.

## Candidate information

**Candidate:** Miranda Buras

**District:** District 5

**Campaign email:** mpainejesam@gmail.com

**Campaign phone:** (504) 982-4237

**Campaign website:** <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61593249803489>

## Submission and endorsement request

- ☒ I am seeking the endorsement of the St. Tammany Federation of Teachers and School Employees.
- ☐ I am not seeking the Federation's endorsement, but I am returning the questionnaire for member information.
- ☐ I am seeking consideration for an eligible political contribution.

**Return by: Friday, August 28, 2026, at 11:45 p.m. To: [union@stfed.org](mailto:union@stfed.org)**

## Response guidance

**Please keep each response to 200 words or fewer. Specific examples are encouraged.** It is entirely appropriate to acknowledge that a question involves an area you would like to learn more about; if so, please explain how you would become informed and what principles would guide you in the meantime. The Federation may publish responses in full or in substantially complete form, with only formatting corrections.

## Candidate certification

By typing my name below, I intend for my typed name to serve as my signature and certify that these responses reflect my own positions. I understand that the Federation may also consider my public record, candidate interview, and other relevant information.

**Typed Signature: Miranda Buras Date: 8/28/2026**

## Background and priorities

### 1. Priorities and Preparation

Why are you seeking election to the St. Tammany Parish School Board? What are your three highest priorities, what experience or preparation do you bring, and how should voters judge whether you have been successful?

**Response:**

I am fresh from the trenches of teaching in the St. Tammany Parish Schools, resigning at the end of May 2026 after teaching for almost 15 years. I have seen firsthand the struggles teachers and students are going through. I now have the opportunity to make change for the better, and I am going for it. My highest priorities currently are the gifted/fine arts programs, giving more support to all teachers, staff, and faculty (paras, SWE, bus drivers, etc) because they are overworked and micromanaged, and giving students an environment more conducive to learning (less screen time, longer lunches, more recess, less tests, etc). My success should be judged on how effective the teachers are, how happy the teachers are (do they feel heard and seen, do they feel supported), and how much students are growing as a whole.

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### 2. Record or Readiness

NEW CANDIDATES: What have you done to learn about the St. Tammany Parish Public Schools? What have you learned that most influences your decision to run?

INCUMBENTS: What are three important votes or actions from your current term? What promises have you kept, what work is still unfinished, and is there a decision you would make differently today?

**Response:**

I was a teaching in the St. Tammany Parish School system for almost 15 years, starting as a long-term sub before being hired full time. I taught at 12 different elementary/middle schools over the years, serving 5-11 schools at a time. I am running because I just left the school system at the end of May 2026 and have seen firsthand the hardships students and teachers are facing. I tried to make change as a teacher, but I was not listened to. I am hoping to make change for the better as a member of the School Board.

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## Governance and employee voice

### 3. Parliamentary Procedure

How familiar are you with Robert's Rules of Order and the use of fair and consistent rules during Board meetings? 3-Working Knowledge

If elected, would you be willing to participate in training on Board governance and parliamentary procedure? Yes

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**4. Collective Bargaining**

Do you support collective bargaining in St. Tammany Parish Public Schools? Yes

**Compensation, finances, and working conditions****5. Employee Compensation**

Do you believe compensation for certificated and support employees is competitive? No

**6. District Finances**

Rate your knowledge of STPPS finances and budget. 3-Working Knowledge

**7. Recruitment, Retention, and Working Conditions**

What do you believe affects the district's ability to hire and keep good employees? (Examples might include workload, planning time, duties, class sizes or caseloads, administrative support, career growth, morale, and professional respect.)

**Response:**

Teachers are currently overworked and micromanaged. They need to be given more autonomy so that they can effectively teach their students. Many do not feel supported or respected by their administration, supervisors, or current School Board. Class sizes are too big, tests are too frequent, and new responsibilities are constantly being added.

**Teaching, learning, and school climate****8. Professional Autonomy and Instructional Decisions**

When a school uses a scripted curriculum, how much freedom should educators have to adjust the lesson, pace, or teaching methods to meet their students' needs?

**Response:**

One of the things teachers are scored on during observations is differentiation. No two students are the same, and teachers are expected to differentiate their teaching to accommodate every child. This should also apply to the curriculum. Teachers should be able to modify lessons/tests, change pacing, supplement lessons and materials, and make any necessary changes to meet their students' needs.

## 9. Safe and Supportive Schools

How should the district handle violence, threats, bullying, repeated behavior problems, and other behavior that makes it hard to learn or feel safe, while also protecting student rights and giving students the help they need?

### Response:

Increase support of the staff to provide the necessary assistance to the teachers so that behaviors can be monitored and replaced with more positive actions. Increase the support of the students and their individual needs, which requires more staff support. Better behavior plans and accommodations need to be put in place and followed by everyone. Discipline and consequences (both positive and negative) need to be consistent and followed. As a teacher, I saw negative behaviors get rewarded with treats so that the student would stop (once by a principal). As a parent, I watched one of my children suffer from bullying when the school did nothing, even though we reported it many times, and saw the other get relief immediately when the assistant principal leapt into action and followed the plans put in place by the school. Problematic students should not remain in classrooms when they are consistently taking away the safety and learning from all of their peers and teachers. That doesn't mean they need to be expelled, but everyone has the right to safety, including the teachers. Better plans need to be put in place for these students, and more support given to the staff.

## 10. Educational Opportunity and Student Success

What school programs and opportunities for students should the district improve or add? (Examples might include reading, math, job and career programs, advanced classes, libraries, special education, English language support, gifted programs, art, music, sports, clubs, and other activities.)

### Response:

Gifted and the arts (including but not limited to strings, band, choir, theater, talented, art) have been under duress and on the decline for the past several years. These programs used to be the shining pinnacle of St. Tammany Parish, and its time they were again. High schools need more specialized tracks in the TOPS Technical diploma pathways. AI/social media courses should be added, both teaching how to use and how to safely navigate them. ESL and special education also need more support and learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

## 11. Artificial Intelligence, Technology, and Screen Time

How should the district approach AI, technology, student devices, and screen time? (Consider topics such as instructional value, age-appropriate limits, academic integrity, AI literacy, student data privacy, cybersecurity, and the role of educators and parents before new technologies or requirements are adopted.)

### Response:

Screen time needs to be limited, especially for younger students. More and more work is being done on Chromebooks, and students' educations are suffering for it. Chromebooks should not be used at all for elementary school students, who learn differently than high school students. AI should only be used as an accommodation, not as a constant. The technology is too new and unstable, and often times incorrect. Colleges do not allow AI (plagiarism), so we should not have students grow to use it then have it taken away. AI safety classes should be offered, especially to middle school – high school students.

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## Accountability

### 12. Accountability and Accessibility

If elected, how will you stay available to employees and the public, communicate with Federation representatives, and protect employees' right to speak up about workplace concerns? If you make a decision that is different from what you said during your campaign, how will you explain that decision to the public?

**Response:**

I will visit the schools as often as I can, speak to teachers, staff, and administration. I will attend school events (I just went to Abita Elementary's Open House). I will leave myself open to anyone who has a question or concern, and encourage people to come to school board meetings to express themselves. The Federation helped me greatly as an education, and I will have zero issues contacting them if I have any questions or concerns, and leave my emails and phones open for them to contact me for the same. If I do change a decision from campaigning to serving, I will explain in detail why that change was made at school board meetings and on social media. The only way I foresee this happening is if new, factual information is presented to me that changes my opinion or if I learn that what I campaigned on is not possible.

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