

# 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:** Reid Mahne

**District:** 9

**Campaign email:** mahnedistrict9@gmail.com

**Campaign phone:** 504-618-6873

**Campaign website:** [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

## 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:** Reid Mahne **Date:** 8/26/2026

## 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'm seeking election because I believe families, teachers, and students deserve a School Board member who is focused on fiscal responsibility, classroom resources, transparency, and meaningful school involvement in policy decision-making. My three highest priorities are making sure taxpayer dollars are managed responsibly, ensuring teachers have the resources and support they need to do their jobs well, and improving communication so parents, educators, and the public have input in important decisions. My children attend STPPS and my wife is an educator in the school system. I am personally invested in the outcomes. My professional background has prepared me to evaluate budgets, ask practical questions, and make decisions based on facts and long-term sustainability. In my professional career, I manage a \$9 million operation budget, oversee a \$70 million payroll, and work with more than 650 mariners, which requires accountability, planning, and good stewardship of resources.

### 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 have spoken with the principals in my district and learning district regarding academic program offerings and what they would like out of their school board representative. Also, I have spoken to current school-board members and watched the televised school board meetings to familiarize myself with the budgetary issues we currently face.

The current measures we have taken to balance the budget are not sustainable.

## 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? 2-Limited Knowledge

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

#### 4. Collective Bargaining

Do you support collective bargaining in St. Tammany Parish Public Schools? I need to learn more.

## Compensation, finances, and working conditions

#### 5. Employee Compensation

Do you believe compensation for certificated and support employees is competitive? Need to learn more.

#### 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:

While I am not an STPPS employee and cannot speak from firsthand experience, the factors listed—workload, planning time, duties, class sizes, administrative support, career growth, morale, and professional respect—are important in any workplace. I believe they likely play a major role in recruitment and retention within the school system as well.

Compensation, while not listed as an example, is an obvious factor. Educators, while many do this because it is their calling, should not be treated as volunteers. The state ranks 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation with regards to teacher compensation. Our goal should be to give teachers and support staff raises, not stipends.

## 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:

I am not familiar enough with the specifics of the question, but the educator should have enough autonomy and support from their administration to do their job effectively.

Micromanagement leads to resentment and burn-out in the workplace, reducing outcomes.

## 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:

Student safety and classroom order must be priorities. The taxpayers of St. Tammany Parish are funding SROs, and our schools also have important safeguards in place, including gated campuses and locked doors.

Violence, bullying, and repeated disruptions must be addressed quickly and consistently. Students rights matter, but so does every student's right to learn in a safe, productive classroom.

Students with serious or repeated behavior problems should receive support in appropriate settings with trained staff who can help them succeed, while allowing teachers to teach and other students to learn.

## 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:

What I think public schools do better than anyone else is the availability of vocational programs. I would love to see more opportunities for students who are not planning on attending traditional 4-year universities, such as HVAC, plumbing and carpentry.

## 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:

While technology can be a helpful tool, it should not replace critical thinking, reading, writing, problem-solving, or direct instruction from educators. My concern with overreliance on AI is that it can reduce students development by doing the thinking for them instead of helping them learn how to think through problems independently.

I would support eliminating AI use, especially in younger grades, and ensuring screen time is purposeful rather than excessive.

## 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 believe in transparency and accessibility. I will always be available via phone or email to receive much-welcomed input from administration, educators and the public. I have made it clear to the administrators in my district that I am not an expert in their field and will rely on their expertise to guide policy-decisions.

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