

Sarah Corona
4212 Ridge Rd. Lakeland, FL 33811
(863)812-6127
Florida Behavioral Medicine

Campaign Information
4212 Ridge Rd. Lakeland, FL 33811
(863) 812-6127
Campaign Treasurer: Rimini Kephart
School Board District: District 3

- 1. What are your reasons for seeking a seat on the School Board and what assets do you bring to the position?** I am seeking a seat on the School Board because I care deeply about the success, safety, and well-being of all students in our community. As a woman of faith and Hispanic heritage, I believe in treating every person with dignity, respect, and fairness. I want to ensure that schools remain focused on strong academics, safe learning environments, and equal opportunities for every child to succeed. I bring a strong commitment to service, integrity, and community engagement. I am a good listener who values collaboration with parents, teachers, and community members. I will work to ensure transparency, accountability, and policies that reflect respect for all students while keeping education centered on learning and achievement.
- 2. If there is an opponent for your seat, why are you the best choice for a seat on the School Board.** I believe I am the best choice for this seat because I bring a strong commitment to serving all students and families with fairness, respect, and integrity. I am focused on ensuring safe schools, strong academic achievement, and equal opportunities for every child. I listen to parents, teachers, and community members and believe decisions should be made transparently and with community input. I am a woman of faith and Hispanic heritage who values dignity for all people and believes schools should remain centered on education, safety, and respect. I will work to ensure that every student is treated fairly and has the opportunity to succeed in a supportive learning environment.
- 3. What specific solutions do you have for improving student behavior in our schools?** Improving student behavior requires a balanced approach that supports both accountability and student growth. I would focus on strengthening clear, consistent schoolwide expectations so students understand what is expected of them. I also support proactive strategies such as positive behavior interventions, character education, and restorative practices when appropriate to help students learn from mistakes rather than repeat them. In addition, addressing student mental health needs is essential. Expanding access to school counselors, mental health resources, and early intervention supports can help identify challenges before they turn into behavioral issues. I would also encourage stronger collaboration between parents, teachers, and administrators so concerns are addressed early and consistently. Supporting teachers with proper training, resources, and administrative backing is also critical so they can maintain safe and orderly classrooms. My goal is to ensure schools are safe, respectful, and focused on learning for all students.

- 4. What specific solutions do you have for addressing the severe shortage of qualified educators facing our district?** Addressing the shortage of qualified educators requires a focus on both recruitment and retention. To recruit teachers, I would support expanding partnerships with local colleges and universities to create clear pathways into the classroom, including student-teacher pipelines and paid internships. I would also support competitive pay and benefits so our district can attract high-quality educators. To retain teachers, it is important to improve working conditions by reducing unnecessary administrative burdens, providing strong classroom support, and ensuring teachers have the resources they need to be successful. Mentorship programs for new teachers and ongoing professional development can also help educators feel supported and grow in their careers. Finally, I would prioritize listening to teachers directly so the district can respond to their needs and reduce turnover, creating a stable and effective learning environment for students.
- 5. What experience do you have in education policy and specifically working with people in other political roles and or state roles? How are you going to advocate for public education among other governmental bodies?** I am a CEO, a mother, and actively involved in my community, which has given me strong leadership, organizational, and problem-solving experience. While I do not come from a formal education policy background, I have personal ties to education—my mother was a teacher in Cuba, and my aunt was also an educator. That experience helped shape my respect for teachers and my understanding of the importance of education in shaping a child’s future. I will bring my leadership experience and community perspective to the school board to advocate for students, support teachers, and collaborate with parents and other stakeholders. My goal is to ensure strong public schools through open communication, accountability, and a focus on student success.
- 6. How will you work with other people that have differing viewpoints to ensure there is a collaborative environment on the board? Provide examples of when you have done that in previous roles.** I believe collaboration starts with respect, listening, and a shared focus on what is best for students. On a school board, members will not always agree, but it is important to engage in open dialogue, consider different perspectives, and make decisions based on facts, policy, and student outcomes rather than personal differences. I will work to create a respectful environment where all board members feel heard and where disagreements are handled constructively. In my professional role as a CEO, I regularly work with individuals who have different viewpoints, priorities, and communication styles. I have learned to focus on common goals, find areas of agreement, and build solutions through compromise when needed. I also listen carefully to concerns before responding, which helps de-escalate conflict and leads to more productive outcomes. I bring this same approach to community involvement, where I engage with families and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. My goal is always to find common ground and ensure decisions reflect the best interests of the broader community, especially students and families.

7. Public schools have rigorous accountability measures to ensure tax dollars are being utilized in the best way possible to educate all students. What are your thoughts about private and charter schools receiving tax dollars without the same accountability measures in place as our public schools? I believe that all schools receiving public tax dollars should be held to strong standards of accountability and transparency. Public funds come with a responsibility to ensure they are used effectively to support student learning and outcomes. While families should have educational options, including charter and private school pathways where available, those options should still be subject to appropriate oversight to ensure fiscal responsibility and academic standards are met. At the same time, I believe accountability systems should be fair, consistent, and focused on student achievement rather than unnecessary bureaucracy. My priority is strengthening public education while ensuring that any school receiving public funds is responsible to taxpayers and delivers a high-quality education for students.

8. What ideas do you have that would bring more resources, financial or otherwise, to our community? Bringing more resources into our community requires strong partnerships, proactive leadership, and creative collaboration. As a CEO and community member, I understand the importance of building relationships with local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and higher education institutions to bring additional support into our schools.

I would work to expand partnerships that provide internships, mentorships, career training, and enrichment opportunities for students. I would also support pursuing grants at the state and federal level, as well as working with local stakeholders to identify funding opportunities that directly benefit classrooms and teachers.

I believe knowledge is power, and families need to be aware of all available resources in order to fully collaborate and support their children's education. Strong communication and transparency are essential so that parents can engage meaningfully with schools and take advantage of opportunities available to them.

Additionally, strong public schools attract families and businesses to a community, so investing in education is itself a way to bring long-term economic growth and resources. My focus is on ensuring our schools are a place where families are informed, engaged, and empowered to succeed.

9. What is your opinion of a unionized workforce? How would you support the roles and relationships between our employee union and the Superintendent/District Staff? I believe unions play an important role in representing employees, supporting fair working conditions, and ensuring that staff voices are heard in the workplace. A strong and respectful relationship between employee unions, the Superintendent, and district leadership is essential for maintaining a positive and productive school environment.

If elected, I would support open communication and collaboration between the district and employee unions. I believe regular dialogue helps address concerns early, build trust, and avoid unnecessary conflict. My approach would be to ensure that negotiations and discussions remain

focused on what is best for students, while also respecting and valuing the contributions of teachers and staff.

A successful school district depends on strong partnerships between leadership and employees, and I would work to foster a culture of mutual respect, transparency, and shared responsibility.

10. What would a PEA-PAC endorsement mean to you? How would you publicize the support of PEA-PAC for your candidacy? A PEA-PAC endorsement would be a meaningful recognition of my commitment to public education, teachers, and students. It would signal that educator trust my vision for strengthening schools, supporting teachers, and prioritizing student success. As a CEO, a mother, and a community member, I value that kind of confidence from those who are directly involved in the classroom every day.

If endorsed, I would respectfully and proudly share that support through campaign communications, community outreach, and voter engagement efforts, highlighting that educator believe in my ability to serve effectively on the school board. I would use it as an opportunity to engage more families in conversations about the importance of strong public schools and collaborative leadership.

My focus remains on ensuring that our schools are the first choice for families by strengthening academic excellence, supporting teachers, and building trust across the community.