2024 TRS Board of Control Election Candidate Biographies

Joseph Frank Belles



Madison County Board of Education, Special Education Teacher

Education - B.A., Elementary and Special Education, Cum Laude; M.Ed. Special Education; Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership; CAPZO Certification; EMT Certification

Employment History - Special Education Teacher, Madison County Board of Education, 2003 - Present; The Care Center; The Town of Gurley

Affiliations - Gurley Fire and Rescue & Killingsworth Cove VFD; The Red Cross (Disaster Services Responder) & two-time recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award; Town Councilman for the Town of Gurley, AL; Madison County Education Association (Vice President, Treasurer, & AR) & AEA; Eagle Scout, BSA

Mary Beth Tate, incumbent

Fort Payne City Schools, 5th Grade Teacher

Education - B.S., Elementary Education, Jacksonville State University; M.S., Elementary Education, Jacksonville State University

Employment History - Teacher, Little Ridge Intermediate School, Fort Payne City, 2021 - Present; Teacher, Williams Avenue Elementary School, Fort Payne City, 2006 - 2021; Teacher, Eastside Elementary School, Rockmart, Georgia, 2000 - 2006

Affiliations - Trustee Education Committee, National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2022 - Present; State Director, National Education Association, 2020 - Present; District Director, Alabama Education Association, 2017 - 2020; Secretary, Fort Payne Education Association, 2009 - 2013; President, Fort Payne Education Association, 2013 - Present; Vice President, Uniserv Council District #34, 2013 - 2016; President, Uniserv Council District #34, 2017 - Present; Delta Kappa Gamma, 2008 - 2012

Pamela D. West

TEAMS Math Teacher, Montgomery County Board of Education

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Education - B.S., Computer Information Systems (CIS), Alabama State University; M.Ed., Alabama State University; Ed.S. K-12 Leadership, Grand Canyon University; National Certificate for STEM Teaching (NCST); Southeast Region Executive Award

Employment History - Montgomery County Board of Education, 1998 – Present; Selma County Board of Education, 1997 – 1998; Colonial Bank, 1989 – 1994

Affiliations - Alabama State University, National Alumni Association, Inc., President of the Montgomery Alumni Chapter, 2019 - 2023; Alabama Education Association Board of Directors, District, 2019 - Present; Association of Classroom Teachers Board of Directors, District, 2020 - Present; Montgomery County Education Association Board Member-at-Large, 2021 - Present; Montgomery County Education Association President, 2019 - 2022; Jeff Davis H.S - Youth In Government Service Award - Above and Beyond the Call of Duty 2018 - 2019; Horace Mann - Crystal Apple Award 2017 - 2018

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Thank you for voting in the 2024 TRS Election.

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Place Holder For BRIM