

## **A Few of the Things I Believe:**

**I believe Louisiana, and Calcasieu Parish within it, is a great place to live and work.** I am proud to have been born and raised here and I know that the education I received through the public school system has prepared me for any challenge I will be required to face in the days that come.

**I believe good teachers are an invaluable asset to our community.** Only by listening to their input and respecting their truly unique insights into the day-to-day effectiveness of our education system can we discern how to best move our parish public education forward in a changing world.

**I believe involved parents are critical to the education of all children.** Together with teachers, parents form the most critical foundation of our education system. We as leaders must strive to earn the trust of the parents in our districts so they will have confidence in the future and trust their children in our care. It is our responsibility to earn their trust, not their responsibility to trust our decisions.

**I believe the role of the board members, as with any board of directors, is to guide “big-picture” policy.** We must avoid the pitfalls of micro-managing as much as possible and allow the superintendent and staff to handle the implementation of policy, while ensuring that they are held accountable for the success or failure of those implementations.

**I believe quality public education is necessary for our future.** The provision of a quality and equal education to all children is a fundamental responsibility of local government. The proliferation of private and charter schools in our area, while not illegal or unethical, is indicative of missed opportunities and unaddressed problems in our schools that need to be acknowledged and addressed.

**I believe in the term “public servant” in the truest sense of the word.** I believe the duty of an elected official at any level is ultimately to represent the wishes and best interests of his or her constituents, putting aside the influence of personal feelings when necessary.

**I believe there is a correct path through these times for our community.** Only with committed, competent, and courageous board members, willing to listen and work cooperatively with each other will we have the collective wisdom to discern that path and the collective courage to begin our journey down it.

**I believe the opportunities for our parish are extraordinary.**

I am Eric Tarver and I am running for Calcasieu Parish School Board District 8.