

Answering “Why Me, Why Now?”

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Edmund Burke

This is an exciting time to be a resident of Southwest Louisiana. I am proud to have been born and raised here and I have begun to feel a strong obligation to serve my community in any way. No one can read a newspaper or watch the news today without hearing stories of the huge influx of population and capital that we will be seeing in our area over the next few years. This is exciting as a local citizen and business person but it will also be trying times for our education system. It would also be difficult to watch or read any news without hearing about the unprecedented level of federal involvement that is coming to our education system and the constant need of improvement in Louisiana schools in general.

I believe the Calcasieu Parish Public School System can serve as a beacon to the rest of the state on how to grow the right way, govern the right way, cooperate the right way, and eventually meet and exceed the educational standards that are developing so that we continue to be one of the most desirable locations in the southern United States for growth in business, industry, and population.

For us to accomplish this vision the school system is going to need a committed, competent, and courageous board made up of members who understand their responsibilities and are willing to diligently and sacrificially serve the public interest in this capacity.

Martin Luther King Jr. famously said that the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in times of comfort, but where he stands in times of challenge. These are challenging times. I believe I have the business savvy and expertise to identify the challenges that face our community. I believe I have the education and knowledge to understand the significant and complex issues. I believe I have the wisdom and demeanor to be an effective member of the board. I believe I have the open-mindedness and big-picture vision to see solutions where others may not.

Ultimately, I have never aspired to be a politician. While I have never had a love of politics, what I do have is an undefeatable pride in our country and system of government. Democracy works, and do it better here than anywhere else on the planet, but it can only work if “we the people” stand up and participate. This opportunity has forced me to come to the realization that **I am “we the people”**. We are all “we the people” So when the question is asked “Why you, why now”, I would respond, “not because I am the best, or the brightest. Not because I am the youngest, or because of my well-known name or because I like, or don’t like politics. Not because I run a business or because I was born and raised here. Not for any reason other than this:

Why me, why now? Because there is a need now, and because I am willing.”

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