

Candidate Qualification / Position Statement For *Coalition for a Better Memphis* Website

The CBM will post your completed statement on our website, www.bettermemphis.org, exactly as it is submitted. It is important that your information be complete – please use extra space if needed and feel free to attach a resume or any supplemental information. Please email the Statement to peggy@bettermemphis.org by June 6, 2008.

Name: Jim W. Jonakin

Website: n/a

Candidate for: Shelby County School Board, District 2

Why do you believe you are qualified to run for this position?

I feel that my extensive involvement with the Shelby County School System from a variety of perspectives, such as (1) that of a student for twelve years; (2) parent of two daughters who attended Shelby County Schools from kindergarten through the twelfth grade; (3) grandparent of a child currently in the system; (4) parent of two teachers currently in the system; (5) husband of a teacher/counselor in the system (retired); and (6) that of a teacher/administrator in the system myself (now retired), shows the depth of my interest in the system and qualifies me to run for this position. Add to this the fact that I served as the executive officer of a field artillery unit in the Republic of Vietnam, where daily decisions faced life or death consequences and you can see why I feel qualified to handle the pressures that would be associated with service on the school board.

Three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected:

(1) Maintain the outstanding reputation of the Shelby County School System

(2) Contribute to the enhancement of the morale of all employees in the system

(3) Provide for the security and safety of all students in the system

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes? Yes _____ No X

Have you filed for Bankruptcy? Yes _____ No X

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes _____ No X

Explanation of any of the above items _____

List other elected positions you have run for and the outcome of the election:

None

Current Employment

Company: Retired from Shelby County Schools

Length of Employment: 28 years + 2 years w/U.S. Army = 30 year retirement

Brief Job Description: I served initially as a mathematics and physical education teacher and assistant basketball coach at Germantown High School for two years, then as a math and physical education teacher and coach at Shadowlawn Middle for three years. Next, I served as principal of Arlington Elementary School for three years and Ellendale Elementary School for twenty years.

Education

Please list all schools you have attended from High School on.

<u>School</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Date</u>
<u>Bartlett High School</u>	<u>Diploma</u>	<u>1959</u>
<u>Ouachita Baptist University</u>		
<u>Murray State University</u>	<u>B.S. in Phys. Educ., Math & Military Sci.</u>	<u>1966</u>
<u>Memphis State University</u>	<u>M.Ed. in Health, Phys. Educ. & Rec.</u>	<u>1971</u>

Additional information as it regards to education: _____

Memphis State University 72 hours beyond the Masters in Educational Administration and Supervision

How long have you lived in Memphis? 65 years in Raleigh and Bartlett

Where did you grow up? Raleigh, Tennessee, attended Coleman Elem. School

Marital Status/Children: Married, two children, and two grandchildren

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please list your association memberships and identify any leadership positions you have held in the past.

1. Memphis and Shelby County Retired Teachers' Association
2. Tennessee Retired Teachers' Association
3. National Retired Teachers' Association
4. National Notary Association
5. Former member Tennessee Association of Elementary School Principals
6. Former State Editor for the Tennessee Assoc. of Elementary School Principals
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Please list your civic and community memberships.

1. American Legion
2. Faith Baptist Church Bartlett
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: Self

Treasurer: Self

Any other information you would like to share with the voters:

My current professional license, which expires in 2011, contains the following
areas of certification: Superintendent Supervisor of Instruction K-12
Principal 7-12 Adv. Principal K-8 Advanced
Mathematics Health & PE K-12
Elementary Grades 1-9



The following scenario was developed by the Center for Ethical Leadership at Christian Brothers University. It is designed to determine how you process information and make decisions. There is no right or wrong answer.

Lost File – Ethical Dilemma Pitting Individual versus Community

You have been involved in a very tight election, opposing a very popular incumbent. About two weeks prior to election day, the local newspaper runs a very negative article about your opponent and some “shady” dealings occurring during his tenure in office. Although the allegations do not point to any illegal activity, the reporter does imply that a particular financial transaction shows questionable decision making.

Your opponent denies the allegations and insists the transaction is above board. He claims he cannot locate the files associated with this particular incident and, therefore, cannot defend his actions with anything other than his honor, reputation, and good name. The press continues to have a field day over this issue, tearing up your opponent and leaving you in the enviable position of not having to comment on the situation.

You win the election by a surprisingly large margin. Exit polls show it was your opponent’s inability to produce evidence proving there was no wrongdoing that swayed voters your way. Your opponent walks away from the election not only defeated at the polls but also in public opinion and reputation.

About three months into your new position you are working on a case that causes you to rummage through some of your predecessor’s old files. There you find the “smoking gun”... the evidence that clears your opponent of any wrongdoing. You are unsure if the information was accidentally or intentionally misfiled.

- (1) What will you do with this information?
- (2) Will you consult anyone before deciding what to do? If so, whom?
- (3) When making your decision about what to do, whose needs did you consider?
- (4) Was this an easy decision for you to make? If not, what were some of the issues that went through your mind that caused conflict?

(1) I would make this information available to my former opponent so he could clear up any misunderstandings regarding his reputation.

(2) Although there were no allegations of illegal activity, I would touch base with the ruling legal authority to insure that I would not be violating any laws by making the information available to my former opponent.

(3) I considered the needs of the public as well as the needs of my former opponent.

(4) It was a relatively easy decision to make because it involved a clear cut choice between right and wrong.

Optional – Attach a resume.

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peggy@bettermemphis.org by June 6, 2008.