

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

Name: Ken Hoover \_\_\_\_\_

Website: [www.kenin10.com](http://www.kenin10.com) \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for: Shelby County School Board, Position 5 \_\_\_\_\_

## **Why do you believe you are qualified for this position?**

I have four children enrolled in Shelby County public schools. I am deeply engaged in the schools and committed to their long term success. Parents need a voice on the board.

I spent 10 years with Thomas and Betts, the last four as Vice President and General Manager. This executive experience will be very helpful serving on the board, particularly in the areas of policy and budgeting. My involvement in the recent education funding discussions and the committee to develop a rezoning policy for the district have shown me that I can quickly grasp the issues and make a positive contribution. One area where I look forward to contributing is in empathy, understanding other people's perspective. I have extensive negotiating experience at the major corporation level and in smaller contracts for my own business. This is very important in the current discussions on single source funding and the pursuit of special school district status. I have developed productive relationships with several county commissioners and I am confident that I can contribute to improved relationships between the board, the County Commission, and the Memphis City School Board.

Perhaps most importantly, I am committed to transparency in government. As a parent, I have experienced first hand the frustration and disillusionment that result from a lack of transparency in board decisions.

## **Name three specific things you would like to accomplish if elected:**

- 1) Secure special school district status. Shelby County Schools needs special school district status to insure that we are never an unwilling participant in school consolidation. SCS has unsuccessfully pursued special school district legislation for
- Coalition for a Better Memphis

more than ten years. I want to be part of developing a new, successful, strategy for obtaining special school district status.

- 2) Increase transparency. Most school board decisions are very low profile. The “below the radar” nature of the board makes it even more important that our activities be completely transparent. Initial ideas include posting board documents on the district web site, posting current and historical board minutes online, broadcasting board meetings and work sessions, and maintaining an online archive of board recordings.
- 3) Raise the Bar. Tennessee ranks 41<sup>st</sup> among the states in student achievement. SCS performs above the state average, but we do not have good data comparing our performance to national benchmarks. I endorse Bill Frist’s objective of making Tennessee number one in the Southeast in student achievement. Higher standards will provide us with a target. Increased parental involvement is the key to meeting those goals.

Have you ever been delinquent on your property taxes? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  \_\_\_\_\_

Have you declared bankruptcy? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  \_\_\_\_\_

If you answered “yes” on any of the above items, please list the year and provide details. -

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

None.

### **Current Employment**

Company: Supplier-Info, Inc.

Length of Employment: 10 years

Brief Job Description: Founder, Partner/Owner, head of sales, marketing, and customer support

### **Education**

Please list all college/advanced degrees attained.

<u>College/University</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>Graduation Year</u>
Univ. of Arkansas	BS Industrial Engineering, with honors	1981

Additional information relating to your educational background (optional):

National Merit Scholar

How long have you lived in Memphis? 20 years

Where did you grow up? North Little Rock, Arkansas

Marital status/children: Married for 20 years, four children 17, 15, 11, and 7

Please identify up to five organizations that are actively supporting your candidacy and provide a contact (with phone number) for each.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. Germantown Elementary School PTA
2. Germantown Middle School PTA, board member, WatchDOGS chairman
3. Germantown High School PTA
4. American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, membership chairman, picnic chairman

Please list up to 10 current or past civic/community memberships.

1. Parish Council, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Treasurer
2. Poplar Pike Arts Guild
3. Germantown Red Devils Football booster club
4. Memphis Men of Harmony, barbershop chorus

Other Contact Information:

Campaign Chair: Mike Agee, 901-834-0748

Treasurer: Vicki Hoover

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

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