

NEWS RELEASE

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Proven Leader Blair Schroeder Files to Run for AISD School Board

ABILENE, Texas - Local community leader and AISD parent Blair Schroeder filed as a candidate to run for Abilene Independent School District School Board Place 3.

Schroeder seeks to fill the seat held by two-term member and current school board president Dayrl Zeller who earlier today announced that he did not intend to file for re-election after serving the community since 2016.

Blair is a 4th generation Abilenian, who is a product of AISD having attended the schools of Bonham, Lincoln, and Abilene High.

Professionally, Blair works at Abilene Christian University where he is the Chief Strategy Officer. Prior to that he served the big country and surrounding community as the District Director for Congressman Jodey Arrington. Before relocating back to Abilene in 2019, Blair had a successful career in greater Cincinnati working for businesses like Duke Energy, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and Sibcy Cline, Inc. Schroeder was even once named a "Top Young Business Leader" in Cincinnati.

Ultimately, Blair, and his wife Erin, decided to move back to Abilene in 2019. "Not only do we have a lot of extended family in town, but Abilene truly is a special community with values that really resonated with our family's faith. It was important to us as parents to raise our kids here", he said. "Abilene, and AISD, served me well and helped put me on a trajectory that I don't think I could have had if I was raised anywhere else,"

Stepping up to serve the community is nothing new for Blair. He has always been civic minded, whether it was back in high school on Abilene's Youth Advisory Council, serving as Student Council president his senior year at Abilene High, or being engaged in various volunteer roles while living in Cincinnati. "I have a strong sense of duty and believe that those able to contribute and add value to their community should."

When talking about why he was running for school board Schroeder says, "One of the major lessons from the year 2020 is that every elected community position matters and requires capable leadership rooted in principled values that are shared by the community. Currently there are no members of the school board with kids actually in the AISD. I have 4 kids spread across 3 levels of schools and a special education teacher as a wife. I'm uniquely positioned to contribute. In my home, these are daily kitchen table issues and I realize how they dramatically impact Abilene."

Schroeder continued to note that, currently AISD is hiring for a new superintendent and has been facing declining student enrollment. That coupled with potential state legislation around school choice that could dramatically impact the budget we have to make sure that we are stewards of what we have with an eye toward the future. Part of that stewardship isn't just about dollars and cents but also means being diligent in supporting our teachers and working to improve morale along with the educational outcomes of our students. Finally, we have to protect our kids from growing national movements seeking to inject politics in the classroom.

Schroeder has outlined his ten key priorities and principles for K-12 Education:

- We must prepare Abilene's kids for success post graduation that are going on to higher education or joining the workforce immediately. This helps ensure a brighter future for ALL of Abilene and Texas
- Teachers and staff make the difference - we must improve morale to retain, attract, and help improve the educational experience for everyone
- Classrooms are for teaching not indoctrination - Abilene's kids are not pawns in a national culture war and did not sign up for politics.
- We must keep parents informed and engaged in the process
- Money matters in education and we must be good stewards of it, while at the same time advocating for a level playing field in funding from Texas
- Serving the whole child promotes learning and has a positive overall impact on testing outcomes
- Student growth and performance should be measured fairly
- Education serves as the bedrock for a strong workforce that helps regional economic development
- Provide leadership in hiring (if still necessary) and help acclimate a new superintendent
- We must navigate the impacts of state policies and their implications at a local level.

"In order for Abilene to thrive, we have to lean into and bolster the school district that bears our name and not just point to Wylie, Jim Ned, and other surrounding districts as viable options. I am stubbornly optimistic about what Abilene is, and can be, but we have to protect and invest in the things of which we care about and define us. I believe Abilene Independent School District is on the front lines".

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To connect with Schroeder's campaign, please visit Blair.Schroeder4Abilene@gmail.com