CCSD District 5

CANDIDATE SURVEY FOR CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 5
(Ladson and North Charleston area)

Candidates running for this seat include

- **Carlotte Bailey** Website: baileyforfamily.com
- **Libby Tisdale** Website: libbyford5.com

Candidates were asked to respond to questions in 100 words or less. If they exceeded 100 words, their response ended at 100 words, as indicated by (100).

1. If elected, will you vote against going into executive session except for extraordinary personnel matters? Please explain your answer if it includes the possibility of doing business in private.

Bailey: Because there are policies and procedures that govern the purpose of executive sessions, A Trustee cannot go against those policies. All executive sessions are in accordance with FOIA laws. What is addressed in executive sessions are posted online for public review. Nothing is done in secret. The discussions are held in executive sessions to protect children, Personal, as well as Business Matters that are under negotiations within the district. Nothing is polled or voted on in executive sessions. Only discussed. When the Board comes out of executive sessions the subject matter has been addressed and therefore Voted on in the (100)

Tisdale: Absolutely, Public business should be conducted in public. Executive session should be used only for limited, clearly justified reasons — not as a routine way to avoid public discussion. This Board has really damaged public trust by handling far too much business behind closed doors. Too often, meetings begin at 5:15 p.m. and then quickly move into executive session for hours under broad language

such as “personnel matters.” Many parents, community leaders, and even CCSD staff are not able to wait until executive session is over for them to speak. District 5 families deserve transparency. They deserve to know (100)

2. What long-term impacts do you foresee in the rising use and popularity of generative AI tools like ChatGPT over the next four years?

Bailey: I foresee Generative AI being a successful tool in enabling our children to better their education. If used in the proper manner for which it was intended. But if the proper policies and procedures are not put into place effectively then it will fail. Schools as well as Parents have to safe guard our children's use of AI. Left unguarded , unsupervised and unattended it will never achieve the best results.

Tisdale: I see real promise in AI. It can support students with disabilities, provide tutoring, and reduce administrative burdens on staff. But AI must remain a support, not a crutch. Recent warnings from leading AI researchers about rapidly advancing capabilities highlight why schools must take safety seriously. CCSD already has strong policies governing approved platforms, student privacy, and instructional use already in place. As trustee, I will make sure those policies are working. I’ll also prioritize ongoing training for educators and staff, and work with them to encourage new methods while protecting students, privacy, and learning.

3. If you use generative AI for matters related to the school board, will you apply student standards to your use of it?

Bailey: I personally do not use Generative AI to conduct school board business.

Tisdale: Absolutely. Trustees should meet the same, if not higher standards we set for our students. AI should be used as a support. Any output from AI must be verified, held to the highest privacy standards, and aligned with CCSD’S AI governing policies. Unfortunately, we have already seen campaign materials in District 5

contain basic AI-driven mistakes, including the wrong office and district. That is exactly what careless use looks like. As a trustee, I will never outsource my judgment to AI. Any AI-assisted Board work will be independently reviewed, fact-checked, and handled with appropriate confidentiality, and the final decisions and (100)

4. There's a sense in the community that the board has turned over much of its oversight authority to the superintendent. If you agree, how will you recapture oversight?

Bailey: Per Policy, the Charleston County School Board has a Governess position over Charleston County School District. The Superintendent has the Administrative position. The Board has only One employee and that is The Superintendent. The Board oversees the Budget as well as policies, procedures and regulations that govern the district. Nothing more and nothing less.

Tisdale: Yes. Teachers recently rated the Board's leadership "minimally effective," giving it a 2.21 on a five-point scale, down from 2.34 in 2025. This represents just one of many signs the Board is moving in the wrong direction. The superintendent should manage the day-to-day operations, but trustees must approve resources, evaluate results, oversee performance, set policy, and hold the superintendent accountable. I will provide fair but tough oversight by asking hard questions, demanding clear information, and measuring results for students. Demanding more for District 5 does not require being disruptive or confrontational. It requires insisting on better results for (100)

5. Do you believe the school board has been overly politicized? If so, how will you rein it back into focus on local education issues?

Bailey: Yes I believe the Board has been overly politicized. This is not about Democrats or Republicans. It's about making sure all of our children receive the best tools and resources possible to get the best education possible regardless of race, gender, economic status or sexual orientation. It's all about the kids. I will make sure to the best

of my ability to keep the main things the main thing. Educating our children with collaboration from each of our 9 Board Trustees. No one Board member can do it on their own. We must agree to disagree on certain things. Then (100)

Tisdale: Yes. Our current District 5 trustee has spent too much time waging culture wars and bragging that "majority rules." I am running because I believe every child counts. The Board should be focused on whether students are safe, whether they are learning, and whether they are getting the support they need. My priorities are clear: create safer schools, close the achievement gap, and strengthen special education. I will work to move the Board away from political fights and back toward student outcomes, strong schools, and the everyday concerns of District 5 families and educators.

6. What are some issues that you personally want to address and repair during your time on the board?

Bailey: Holding Board Members accountable to serve with honor, integrity and excellence. That the job and title that we have is honored and respected by those that hold these seats.That when we spend money on training for our School Board Members that we actually apply what we have learned to the best of our ability. Why spend the money and not do what we have been taught to do by the experts that should be holding us accountable. And make sure that every dime that is spent is accounted for and used for all of our children's education, teacher pay, (100)

Tisdale: I started with CCSD driving a school bus while I was still a student and worked my way into the classroom. Even in retirement, I continue serving students as a substitute teacher. Those experiences shaped my belief that every child in our community is our responsibility. That is why I released my Every Child Counts platform, focused on three priorities: safer schools, closing the achievement gap, and stronger special education. I want better safety training, more tutoring and summer learning, and more trained adults working directly with students who need additional support. I also want a Board that listens, shows (100)

7. What is your plan to ensure the school district is able to continue serving a growing student population as Charleston County attracts more and more residents?

Bailey: Our Board plan is to make sure we have the best Teachers, Administrators, Principals and District Staff possible to maintain our schools, classrooms and all facilities across Charleston, SC. And to afford our faculty and staff the best training, resources and tools possible so that they are successful in the classroom. As well as to support our Superintendent Anita Huggins in her great work across the district. Charleston County School District is going and growing because of the hard work that she and her staff have put in for all of our schools, children and their families to be successful. (100)

Tisdale: District 5 covers North Charleston, Dorchester Road corridor, Ladson, and Lincolnville, one of the fastest-growing areas in all of Charleston County. This has deep implications for the future of our schools. That means planning ahead for facilities, enrollment, transportation, and staffing. It also means making sure teachers and school employees can afford to live in the communities where they work. In District 5, I want us to invest in strong neighborhood schools and innovative programs that give families more reasons to keep their children in our schools. Growth should bring better opportunities for students, not overcrowded classrooms, overburdened educators, or (100)

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