

1. Tell us a little about yourself and why you would like to serve on this board

My name is Spencer Hogg. My wife and I are 2014 graduates of Chattooga High School and I currently have a 6-year-old son in the Chattooga County School System.

I graduated from the University of Georgia in 2017 with a degree in political science. Since graduation I have worked for two congressmen and currently serve as the Economic Development Project Manager for the Northwest Georgia Joint Development Authority.

I am seeking this position because I love Chattooga County and I hope to serve my home in every capacity possible. As an alumnus and parent of a student, no one wants this school system to succeed more than me.

2. What do you view as the role of the board and as an individual board member?

I view the BOE as a team environment and if I am selected, I would be just one member of the team. While I will always advocate for what I feel is right, I believe that collaboration and teamwork is what should win the day.

I believe the mission of the BOE is to support the superintendent and his staff in their efforts to handle the day-to-day operations and assist when asked.

In my opinion, the BOE should operate within the five specific duties of local boards as defined by the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) which are:

1. Buying and selling school property (including the power of condemnation),
2. Calling elections to authorize a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and bond elections to authorize the issuance of bonded debt,
3. Making the policies and rules necessary to govern the school system,
4. Reorganization and consolidation of schools within their control, and
5. Authority to hire employees on the recommendation of the superintendent.

As an individual board member, I would view my role as adding input in my area of expertise when it could be beneficial to our students, as well as spending time with students, parents and teachers to ensure their concerns are being heard/addressed.

3. What do you think are the biggest challenges facing education today? /What do you think are the biggest challenges facing our school system?

I believe one of the most prominent issues facing education as a whole and our school system today is the issue of workforce development.

In my role serving in economic development, we work to recruit new industry to NWGA and help existing industry expand. During our talks with new prospects and existing employers, their number one concern tends to be the availability of high-skilled workforce.

I believe if we continue to support our already fantastic CTAE programs, continue to strengthen relationships with local employers to craft strategic training programs to fit their needs, and continue to incorporate best practices from other school systems across the State, we can put our graduates in the best possible position to enter into high-skill, high-wage jobs after graduation.

If we can continue down the path of solidifying our community as a workforce powerhouse, we can attract high-wage jobs to our community and improve the lives of our students. In my view, high-skilled labor and an established workforce pipeline will be the most important assets for our County and students in the future. My background in policy and economic development gives me a unique perspective to assist in this endeavor.

4. What is your vision for Chattooga County Schools?

My vision for Chattooga County Schools is to be a system that promotes academic and athletic excellence for all of our students, ensuring that our graduates are prepared to enter the college ranks or the workforce at the highest levels of employment or academic prestige.