

Abraham P. (Abe) Schwab for SACS School Board

FB: @abeschwabsacs
abeschwab.com/school-board

Classroom Experience:

Collegiate Instructor/Professor: 2000-present

Public Service Experience:

Member, Allen County Ethics Commission, 2013-2014

Chair, Allen County Ethics Commission, 2014-present

Board Experience:

Board Intern, Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 2015-2016

Board Member, Aging and In-home Services, 2016-present

Member, Institutional Review Boards, 2004-present

Why are you running for a position on the school board?

As the parent of one middle school student, one elementary student, and a two-year old, I have a vested interest in the direction SACS is headed.

As an Associate Professor at IPFW, I would bring to the Board both the perspective of an educator and the perspective of someone who sees what kinds of skills help students succeed at the college-level.

As Chair of the Allen County Ethics Commission and member of the Board of Aging and In-Home Services, I have important board experience and experience in public service and open door meetings.

What are your goals for the district if elected to the school board?

My guiding principle: to support students and teachers as they work to create, maintain, and improve the learning environment. This includes three areas of emphasis.

First, continued and expanded support for personalized learning plans. As anyone can tell you, we learn best when we learn about material we are already interested in.

Second, collaborative communication. For the system to provide the education students deserve and to provide teachers the support they need, communication (with teachers, with parents, with students) about what's working and what's not is required.

Third, independent judgment. From judgments about contractors for infrastructure to judgments about policy changes, it's important for the judgment to be as free as possible from conflicts of interest. This is one reason that I'm running a moneyless campaign. I talk about the other reasons on my campaign Facebook page (@abeschwabsacs) and on the school board section of my website (www.abeschwab.com/school-board)

What can the district do to further the integration of technology into the curriculum?

If elected, I would support teachers and administrators as they work to integrate technology into their curricula. Two caveats. First, I would be hesitant to mandate such integrations. One of the keys to a successful learning environment is the freedom of teachers and administrators to employ strategies (whether new technologies, new partnerships, or new content) that they believe will work to achieve our learning goals.

Second, I would be attentive to the limits of integrating technology. As useful as technology can be, the abilities to think critically and to discuss ideas face to face with clarity and respect are at least as important. Most of the students in my classes at IPFW have no difficulty navigating the basic uses of technology, but some have difficulty with the clear articulation of their own perspective and the ability to critically think about their own perspective and the perspectives of others.

What do you believe to be the strengths of the SACS school district?

Excellent students, committed teachers, and large numbers of engaged and invested parents. Continuing to build on these strengths will be a key to the continued success of SACS. I have also been impressed with the e-learning infrastructure rolled out over the last several years and the continuing commitment to employing technology in appropriate ways to improve the learning environment.

What changes would you propose as a School Board member?

One thing that would change, should I be elected, is the number of School Board members with classroom experience.

Family that has graduated from or currently attends SACS:

Liz (Muhler) Schwab (spouse) (Homestead, 1994)

Daniel (attends Woodside)

Katelyn (attends Aboite)

Would you be open to voter feedback on a continuing basis? If so, how?

Yes. Aside from formally submitted questions and statements to the School Board, I'm particularly interested in hearing from voters and students both now and, should I be elected, after the election. If you look at my campaign Facebook Page (@abeschwabsacs) and my website (abeschwab.com/school-board), you'll see my current request to have interested parents, teachers, and students approach me when they see me at coffee shops throughout Southwest Allen. I do a lot of my work at coffee shops, and usually spend two or more hours a day at various ones throughout Fort Wayne. If elected, this open invitation will stand.