

21 June 2022

Dear Mrs. Short,

It is a pleasure to offer you my endorsement for Volusia County School Board, District 3. You are clearly the most-qualified choice. Your dedication to the families of Volusia County and the education process, as a whole, is extraordinary.

You consistently demonstrate and publicly declare your purpose as one of ensuring every student in Volusia County receives a quality education. For more than a decade, you attended every school board meeting (in person or virtually) to ask tough questions, offer viable suggestions, and demand personal accountability. You have proven your leadership abilities on multiple School Advisory Councils (SACs) and District Advisory Councils (DACs). You gained the trust of your peers as evidenced by your selection as Vice-President, Treasurer, and Events Coordinator of several local PTA organizations and as Business Partner Liaison and Legislative Chair at the county level. You regularly offer your services as a certified education surrogate to families who need mediation or intervention regarding a need for a specialized training plan. You consistently mentor students across the county ensuring that each one understands that their education matters. Your compassion assures them that you are available to assist. It must be noted that each of these duties - each one as vital as the next - you do as a volunteer. That's commitment!

You already make a huge impact on students across Volusia County. I have personally watched as the online web page (Volusia County School Forum) that you run grew from an impressive 5k people in 2020 to an astonishing 12k people today. There can only be one reason for that incredible growth; our community knows that you are to be trusted. Parents rest assured knowing that you are disseminating the most-current and accurate information regarding education, leadership, and facilities with total transparency and in an unbiased manner. Your forum is many parents' go-to resource for up-to-date data regarding Volusia County education, policies, and events. That's proven integrity!

You do more than talk the talk. I once heard you speak of a critical manning shortage for substitute teachers. Next, I learned that you had qualified as a substitute teacher and regularly substitute across Volusia County. That's action!

I could wish you luck on your campaign but it's not a lucky person we need on the School Board. We need a person of integrity, action, courage, and commitment. Without question, you are the only choice.



Kat Atwood
Councilwoman-Elect, Port Orange