

Kelly Damerow - D5

- 1) what hearing from voters. Knocked on a lot of doors. #1 issue was school safety. I think every school should have SRO - HS and middle all have them so just talking about elementary schools. Scott already talking about realizing guarding money for other. Parents and non-parents that is number one issue. School safety.
- 2) What have you learned/new issue/evolved. I've evolved a bit on chapters schools and school choice. Spoken to parents where it is very personal for them. Where they didn't feel public schools were serving THEIR child well. balck and white easy to say keep streamlined public schools, but reality is children aren't cookie cutter and giving choice gives parents choice to find what is best fit for their child. I've evolved there.
- 3) Superintendent. I had wonderful opportunity to sit with Blackburn before he left, 3 hours covering the spectrum, how board works with admin, teachers, understanding who does what, etc. What he relayed to me for why Mullins was to keep this trajectory our schools are on... to fully realize the strategic plan he put in place. I am fan of disciplinary plan he put in place, I am a fan of that. I am concerned by the process it went forth. expedited. I understand why, but outside perspective to parents, I've heard feedback there was much community impact there. Even local elected leaders expressed frustration. I'm a believer in process... and the process protects you from the unknown and as attorney wishes they had done that.
- 4) Guardian funding - clear distinction between my opponent and I. We have a lot in common, she is strongly in support of it and I am not in support of it. I feel it is taking the less expensive, faster route,. When the bill went through passions were high, needed something right now, as we've had time to reflect, people are looking at long term solution, and we we are talking about someone in an elementary school with a weapon. Officer can build relationship with children, relationship of trust with law enforcement, be a resource to the child, part of threat assessment team. Stoneman Douglass bill had many good things, including that threat assessment team - principle, guidance councilors, SRO, teacher - they can assess and act on children posing a threat. Integrated approach to helping bring in law enforcement officer if needed.
- 5) Path to victory in head to head. Difficult with 4 candidates. I was confident in the outcome of primary, knowing 50% unlike. Clear path I am going after 90% of Andy Z voters, they went for moderate candidate and experienced candidate. Top criteria most people look for woman, teacher, mother - those are null as apply both of us. I will be announcing his endorsement soon, going to a lot of church events and chamber events. Those are places I haven't been. You all understand what the board is all about and those are areas I have significant experience in those areas. She has also tapped out her support base, and I have a large part of mine that I have saved for november, so I feel confident will have resources. We are both backed by different parties and we know one party is more fired up than the other. I'll have hundreds of people knocking on doors for me outside my campaign. I'll have significant ground game as well as financial advantage.
- 6) Why biz community support you? Almost billion dollar budget. Experience with a million dollar budget (mine) better than her experience (none) mine was non-profit, but similar. I need to have budgetary priorities, was told to cut expense side of budget by 50% I did that without laying off any staff members. I am proud of the efficiency able to do with that budget.
- 7) Secular Coalition and reason rally coalition - Secular Coalition for America increase respect for non-believers and advocate for seperation of church and state. Got to defend consitution, religious minority group, and other organization because everything in DC done with coalition to increase powerful. Worked closely with southern baptist coalition.... We found the common ground on certain issues and working together. Reason Rally main mission promoting evidenced based policy making. More neutral... I stand behind. More than Secular coalition.

- 8) How can we help? Post card writers, grassroots campaigns around country doing this I jumped on early. parents, busy people, folks who don't want to knock, so we have postcard brigade, one side about me, other side ask volunteer to write why they are supporting me, and we get them voter list, we sent almost 10,000 before august primary. I had people come up to me at the polls holding that post card... the personalization has a big impact. That is first thing I ask someone to do. From there ask for phone call, or walk, or what else.
- 9) Teacher retention - and pay. Absolutely they are underpaid. I started in 2007, getting my bachelors and masters and how long it would take me to pay back loans... so thats why I went pack to law school. Pay freezes and increases under COL, 10-20 year teachers are way behind where they should be, means their 401k s are behind, they are behind. Will take longer to get them up to speed. We have 87 vacancies and we have bad reputation right now. Rockledge is STEAM school and no A Art teacher. Heritage just doesn't have US history teacher. Eventually school grades will suffer.
 - 1) Rankings for some schools - when teachers swapped out, lose familiarity with processes, and while grades of schools not everything, they are snapshot that people who want to move here look at.
- 10) Have not met with any other staff other than Blackburn. Also met with director of CTE program... to learn how we could help them. Her #1 issue to recruit experienced tradesmen and women to take pay cut and come deal with HS students.
 - 1) Academy programs - look at teacher program, change the culture, start in elementary schools so when teaching 4th graders electricity bring in electricians, have them see it is exciting. Jim: 10 years ago academy system changed. Not about preparing for going to work, changed to college prep. Now have to change it back. Kelly: make it not college or not, but multiple pathways to success. options.
- 11) Kids getting hit - multiple issues. There work with palm bay city council.
- 12) Worked with southern baptist on? Chaplins in the military... humanist Chaplins on most campuses but not allowed in military, to expand Chaplin seed military. Did not pass but got a lot closer....
- 13) Last word. On election day up at 4am, put up signs. I was out all day until poll closed. Including Andy Z... I thanked him for running a positive issue based campaign, and that is what I intend to keep doing through november. I have heard whispers that rumors about me.... I found out after the election my opponent been sharing false information, sent out information on my letter head supposedly saying any religious things.... We talked about it and she acknowledged she knew she was sharing not true talking points and intended to keep doing it. Was heartbroken by that, my first time and I am learning a lot. That hit a special place for me and I had to dig deep to commit to staying positive and talking to people directly... to meet voters directly. Meet people volunteering at freedom park elementary school... being away when my baby is learning to walk and talk.. but I've dedicated my life to education and and I can't stop now. I think if get my message to voters it will make a difference.