

Candidate: Scott Hopes Office: Manatee Co School Board Dist 4

Party: R

For the school board races, we did not do vetting in the same way as the other races. For years, school board community activists Linda Schaich and Peg Martin have documented and reported to TPM the performance of the board members.

We are three points away of being an A district; now is not the time to lose the chairman who is leading the charge. Moreover, with a district whose superintendent represented a \$25 million deficit as a surplus we, voters, need a Finance Committee performing oversight, not hindsight.

Top Issues:

Scott's top issues are: Getting the A rated District Manatee deserves, giving the voters the transparency they deserve and keep our children safe.

Financial Oversight and Fiscal Responsibility

- For financial oversight of the district: Hopes spoke in favor of giving the Citizens' Financial Advisory Committee more [oversight of district's finances](https://www.bradenton.com/news/local/education/article213509124.html).
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- Scott Hopes works for fiscal integrity and transparency. For example, he opposed the Kennedy tax increase and the Kennedy Finance Committee bait and switch.—from Linda Schaich
- “When the governor (Rick Scott) appointed” (Scott Hopes to the Manatee school board in 2017) the district “hadn’t balanced its checkbook in nearly a year.” The person in charge of this “resigned within weeks of my appointment.”— Scott Hopes, speaking to Tea Party Manatee Oct 2, 2018
- The district is now balancing its checkbook each month and will use the Finance Committee to locate the waste that is surely being hidden. The community was promised independent oversight of all these new taxes and Scott will insure they get it.—from Linda Schaich
- Since I’ve been on the board, we have more dollars in reserves and we’re beginning to pay down the debt...My goal is to restructure our debt and reduce our debt by 50% over the next 35 years.” — Scott Hopes, speaking to Tea Party Manatee Oct 2, 2018

Education

Associate of Arts degree from Gulf Coast State College, Panama City, Florida; Bachelor of Arts, Natural Sciences and Biology from University of South Florida, College of Natural Sciences; Master of Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics University of South Florida, College of Public Health; and Doctor of Business Administration, University of South Florida, Muma College of Business

<https://www.youobserver.com/article/manatee-county-school-board-district-4-scott-hopes>

Experience and Good Management Skill

- **School Safety:** The day after the Parkland shooting, Hopes walked 5 Manatee campuses and found several not able to be secured. One result: board decided to have 2 armed officers at the high schools, and 1 armed officer at the rest.—Scott Hopes, speaking to Tea Party Manatee May 29, 2018
- Scott noted that “Deputy Superintendent Ron Cirrana is under investigation”: “Manatee County Administrative action is linked to a project that doubled in budget and scope before its launch in early July.” <https://www.bradenton.com/news/local/education/article216217290.html> and Hopes said, “We need leadership who can insulate the classroom from these operational issues.” — Scott Hopes, speaking to Tea Party Manatee Oct 2, 2018
- “We’re going to stop all this busing so your kids can go to a school near their home.” — Scott Hopes, speaking to Tea Party Manatee Oct 2, 2018
- “We have nearly a third of a billion dollars in debt. People say you can’t run a school district or university like a business,” Hopes said. “I got news for you: We are a billion-a-year business. The subject of that business, the core, is student success through academic achievement.” <http://gm5-lkweb.newscyclecloud.com/news/20180719/candidates-for-manatee-school-board-talk-big-ideas-at-tiger-bay>
- Hopes emphasized the need for smart planning and said the district still did not have a strategic plan. He has said that is the top priority once elections are settled so that a new superintendent can start with a clear map of where the district wants to go. <http://gm5-lkweb.newscyclecloud.com/news/20180719/candidates-for-manatee-school-board-talk-big-ideas-at-tiger-bay>

I have a doctorate in business administration and I am a proven board member and leader. I am the only candidate that has served on boards and managed organizations with annual budgets ranging from \$2.1 billion to over \$15 billion. The district’s current budget is rapidly approaching \$1 billion a year in taxpayer money.

<https://www.youobserver.com/article/manatee-county-school-board-district-4-scott-hopes>

- I have transformed the school board from an ineffective board which lacked fiscal oversight and transparency, followed no rules of order, had meetings that sometimes went on until 2:30 a.m, and lacked focus, to a board that on July 24, 2018 earned and was awarded the Master Board Certification from the Florida School Board Association following a yearlong training and education program with a school governance board consultant. <https://www.youobserver.com/article/manatee-county-school-board-district-4-scott-hopes>
- “With all the mandates and restricted funds it’s a management nightmare if you don’t have the needed experience.” — Scott Hopes, speaking to Tea Party Manatee Oct 2, 2018

Supporters/Endorsements include:

Gov. Rick Scott appointed Hopes

<https://www.bradenton.com/news/local/education/article213509124.html>

Hopes has received \$1,500 from the charter school community, including \$1,000 from Charter Schools USA, which runs Manatee Charter School, \$250 from Manatee School for the Arts board chairman David Kraner and \$250 from MSA principal Bill Jones.

“Many of the contributors that my opponent has were in a position of authority in the district when millions of dollars disappeared,” Hopes said. “If you look at (Stokes’) contributors, they take money from the district. If you look at my contributors, they give to the community.” <http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20180805/manatee-school-board-campaign-contributions-reveal-fundraising-winners-losers>

Summary Comment:

School district community activists Linda Schaich and Peg Martin strongly endorse Gov. Rick Scott-appointed Scott Hopes and we couldn’t agree more.

Dr. Scott Hopes, the incumbent candidate for Manatee Co School Board Dist 4, comes with a wide range of experience in management, finance, administration, health care and more. He is a take-action man who, the day after the Parkland shooting, walked five Manatee school campuses and found several not able to be secured. As this document shows, Manatee County School District has operational issues. Scott Hopes will provide the leadership to insulate the classroom from those issues and ensure Manatee students truly get a quality education.

In contrast, Stokes, a former principal and director of elementary education for Manatee County schools, was given a choice by then Supt. Rick Mills to retire or be fired. Moreover, when Stokes was in charge of the elementary schools he started with 18 A-rated schools and ended with nine. Based on his results Joe Stokes just doesn’t have the skill set to bring Manatee’s schools to an A rating.

We strongly endorse Scott Hopes for Manatee County School Board Dist 4.
