

APEC Candidate Questionnaire 2026

Candidate: Michelle Pozzie

Office: Sarasota County School Board District 5

1. Campaign Viability

Why running: As a conservative, America First mother, I am running to restore academic excellence, strengthen parental rights, improve transparency, and ensure taxpayer dollars are focused on student success.

Key Issues: Academic achievement; parental rights; accountability and transparency.

Path to Victory: Mobilizing parents, grandparents, faith communities, conservatives, independents, and voters concerned about school performance and student outcomes.

Fundraising: Grassroots fundraising, digital outreach, local supporters, and community engagement.

Top Donors: To be disclosed through campaign finance reporting.

Meaningful Endorsements: Parents, educators, faith leaders, community leaders, and organizations committed to educational excellence and parental rights.

Differentiation: I am a mom, outsider, and advocate for students rather than the political establishment.

Bipartisan Issues: Student safety, literacy, transparency, and fiscal stewardship.

2. Core Ideology & Principles

I identify as an America First conservative who believes government should serve citizens, protect constitutional rights, and empower families and local communities.

Non-negotiable principles: Constitutional rights, parental rights, free speech, religious liberty, transparency, and accountability.

I strongly support the First and Tenth Amendments and believe education decisions should be made as close to students and families as possible.

3. Due Diligence

No criminal investigations, ethics complaints, arrests, or known conflicts of interest to disclose. Any required disclosures will be completed accurately and timely.

4. Constitutional Interpretation

I favor an originalist approach to constitutional interpretation. The Constitution is not a living document subject to changing political winds; its meaning should be grounded in its text and original intent.

I support separation of powers and constitutional limits on executive authority.

I strongly support the Second Amendment.

Florida Red Flag Laws: I oppose Florida's Red Flag Law because the Second Amendment shall not be infringed. Constitutional rights must be protected, and any action that restricts those rights must provide full due process protections and adhere to the Constitution.

5. Fiscal & Economic Policy

Government should focus on core responsibilities, eliminate waste, improve transparency, and prioritize measurable outcomes. Responsible budgeting and fiscal discipline are essential.

6. Social & Cultural Issues

Parental rights are fundamental in education. Schools should focus on academics, civics, character, and preparing students for success.

Religious liberty should be protected in the public sphere.

Sharia Law: I am opposed to Sharia law because it fundamentally conflicts with the United States Constitution. The Constitution and the rule of American law must remain supreme. We cannot serve two masters.

Abortion: Pro-life and supportive of policies that protect life.

Immigration policy should emphasize secure borders, legal pathways, and enforcement of existing laws.

I oppose inappropriate foreign influence in Florida schools.

7. Energy, Environment & Infrastructure

I support an all-of-the-above energy strategy that includes traditional and emerging energy sources while maintaining reliability and affordability.

Nonprofits receiving public funds should be subject to appropriate transparency and oversight.

Foreign Ownership of Land: No foreign adversaries should own property in the State of Florida or in our nation. Protecting our land, critical infrastructure, and strategic assets is a matter of national security.

Environment and Growth: Growth decisions should be made at the local level. Communities are best positioned to balance economic growth, infrastructure capacity, environmental stewardship, and quality of life.

8. Local Issues

Counties should retain authority over their comprehensive plans and development decisions.

Live Local Act: All building and density decisions should be made at the local level by county and city commission governments. Local communities should retain meaningful control over development and planning decisions.

Local communities should have a strong voice in water management decisions.

I am most qualified to address academic achievement, school accountability, transparency, and parent engagement.

15-Minute Cities and Smart Meters: I do not support a technological police state.

Chemtrails: I support Secretary Kennedy's decision to further investigate this, and Florida laws need to be properly implemented and enforced.

I support policies that encourage small business growth and workforce development.

My priorities include safer schools, improved academic performance, fiscal accountability, and stronger parental involvement.

9. National Security & Foreign Policy

Not directly applicable to a School Board race. As a citizen, I support strong national security, protection of American interests, secure borders, and policies that put America first.