



Antwon Stephens, School Board District 2

1 message

Antwon Stephens Dem

Fri, Jan 6, 2023 at 4:43 PM

To: "Palmer, Lisa" <palmerli@clarke.k12.ga.us>

Hi Lisa,

Hope all has been well with you! I am submitting my intentions to return to represent school board district 2.

God bless!

-Antwon Stephens

My story is like those that my brother is aiming to turn attention to. Failed by this school district. I fell into the school to prison pipeline and struggle to make gains in life. He understands us and we need a person from us to speak for us. I plead with this board to nominate Antwon Stephens as the next school board member of district 2. -Antonio Williams- Resident of District 2 and Former CCSD Student

I am submitting my letter of interest to continue building on 3 years of stability and representative minority leadership in District 2. Let's get back to work uninterrupted!

- Antwon Stephens, Former District 2 School Board Representative

Former March For Our Lives Georgia Spokesperson

Former National Youth Rights Association Leader

Former School Board Representative

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Advocate

Antwon Stephens, Former District 2 School Board Rep.

I am proud to stand back up after prayerful consideration and community encouragement to ask my former colleagues for your support to continue stability. I present myself as a son of district 2 and a flawed learning yet effective young person with a story that looks like and relates to this over 80% minority district. I do not have a PHD. I am not a professor. I did not go to some prominent school. I was not born to a powerful, prominent, or wealthy family. I am simply a young Black man with Cystic Fibrosis and a message that has proven myself a consistent fighter even in times finding myself as a young leader and did not know quite how to. I was raised by grandparents who were born still on plantation lands in Oglethorpe/Taliaferro County. They dropped out of school in 8th grade to become sharecroppers to bring in money to a family left in poverty after slavery ended. My grandfather and late grandmother inspired me to stand up in spite of because that is the story they lived. It is the story of so many families in district 2, which is the most impoverished district in Athens. Families here are still trying to break generational curses of oppression. The school to prison pipeline is well on display in this hurting district where we live in a state of emergency. I am attending way to many funerals of former classmates and young family members. The jail populations of Athens and the surrounding areas are made up mostly of young minority people who came through this school district. I have the audacity to stand up as a representative person of the plight here also failed by this district to say it is time to continue much needed equity work in this school district.

It was a great honor to serve my community on this board during some of the most challenging times in 2020 as we tackled community discourse, COVID, COGNIA reviews, superintendent issues, and so many other things. I knew that I stood on the shoulder of a giant following behind my family friend Mr. Vernon Payne. I showed great respect for the institution and my passion for wanting to aid in changing the system that failed me. I earned praise from COGNIA at the end of my term and earned the support of even many of those who were against me at first. I showed what leading with accountability, humility, and in spite of looks like. I now ask for the opportunity once again to represent district 2 to continue the equity work and stable representative leadership of this community.

Thank you,

-Antwon Stephens, Former District 2 School Board Rep.

I am supporting my grandson, Antwon Stephens, to be school board representative. I've witnessed his passion all the way back to him being in diapers and sitting to watch CNN instead of cartoons alongside me. I appreciated his fight for bus drivers and district employees like myself during the early days of COVID. He continues to elevate the real stories of this community and elders like myself. He deserves a chance to continue representing us and to finish the work he started. Let's give him a chance to thrive.

-Ernest Stephens, CCSD School Bus Driver/ District 2 Resident

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Stephens', written over a horizontal line.