

**Please tell us the following information about yourself:**

**Name:** Richard "Matt" Blatt

**Position Running For:** Couer d'Alene School Board, Trustee, Zone 3

**Tell us a little about yourself and your family, how long you have lived in the area and your occupation.**

I am a retired Army officer after 28 years of service; married with one daughter in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I was responsible for Civil-Military interactions in my role as both a Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Officer. My career culminated at the Pentagon where I provided strategic analysis and policy oversight at the highest levels of the military. We moved here last summer to be closer to family, and the outdoor life afforded by living here.

**Please answer the following questions:**

**1. Do you have experience as an elected official and if so, what was your position, and how would you describe your voting record?** I have not been an elected official. I have however, been responsible for establishing governance programs in formerly war-torn nations. I have been voting by absentee ballot for a long time due to my military service. I only vote for republicans and those independents who appear to be good stewards of taxpayer funds.

**2. Please tell us about your activity as a Republican. Have you previously voted for candidates of other parties? If yes, explain.** I am a lifelong republican who long ago noted the values of the party, which stand in contrast to other political parties. I once voted for Ross Perot, however later came to understand that we have a 2-party system and that votes outside the GOP skew results to favor the democrats.

**3. What is the purpose of government?** To establish and enforce laws which enable a structured society.

**4. Describe why you are running for this particular office. What are your qualifications? What are your goals?** I see the local school board is in disarray. There is an overt political bias toward progressive values and board votes are routinely 3-2 in favor of bad decisions. My experience within the military has taught me the value of involving myself with the decision-making process. I have 28 years of experience working with other

leaders and civil officials to convince them to abide by what we see as mission success. Working with other equally ranked decision-makers and government officials has taught me the value of building a coalition to achieve our goals.

This board has lost the trust of the community. I intend to ensure the board establishes a process to address the concerns of the community with clear responses to their questions. The board must revamp its scheduling process to ensure the public has consistent advance notice of agenda topics. Finally, the board policy manual, and those of the administration and schools must be brought forward for public review and updates.

**5. Describe experiences where you are or have been engaged such as non-profit organizations, clubs, churches, boards, commissions, etc., where you have been of service to others.** I have served as a Paramedic representative on the Multnomah County Emergency Medical Services Board (late '90's). I have served as the Treasurer for a chapter of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, an organization dedicated to assisting other veterans. I am a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and Paralyzed Veterans of America.

**6. Do you describe yourself as fiscally conservative? Please elaborate.** Yes, very conservative. My father taught me the value of living within my means. I grew up with an understanding of the difference between for profit companies and non-profit entities. The spending philosophy of these concepts are as different as night and day. I have had to manage as much as \$250 million of funds provided to my military programs to ensure fiscal responsibility. Such programs included payment for media use, procurement of weapons systems, and special projects all funded through congressional appropriations.

**7. Do you consider yourself as socially conservative? Please elaborate.** Yes, very much so. My values have not changed much over my life and have been refined based on my overseas experiences. Before the military I was a 13 year Paramedic in Portland, Oregon working nights - and saw the plight of people with whom I usually interacted – which was mostly due to their own bad decision making. Once in the military, I deployed and worked to counter the evils of Marxism, Socialism, Communism, and insurgencies around the world. I have spent significant

time working to repair the damage caused by those philosophies in Latin America, the Balkans, the middle east, and Africa.

**8. Describe which party platform best aligns with your positions on public policy (Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Constitutional Party) and where do you disagree with that platform.** I am very conservative. I favor the GOP platform, however I do think belief of treating our opponents as if they will respond to trust or mercy is misplaced. The tactics being employed align with the insidious nature of the forces I fought abroad. Mainly the elimination of Americana from the school curriculum and efforts to isolate our children from their families.

**9. Do you have any history of tax liens, criminal record, bankruptcy or conflict of interest that may affect your future decisions or desirability to be voted into office?** No – I have held a Top-Secret clearance (TS/SCI) for many years. I have exceptional credit scores. There are absolutely no negative marks in my files or I wouldn't have been entrusted with such a high level clearance

**10. Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative with FORTITUDE, adhering to the values and answers you have stated above.** What seems to be missing from this board is an understanding that the members represent their constituents, instead they seem to vote their personal bias without regard to community inputs. To that end, I expect the board shift to owing answers to community members who take the time to address them. There must be a reply to comments at the next meeting. Agendas must be predictable and posted many weeks in advance to ensure parents can research and comment prior to meetings. Finally, it baffles me the Trustees are not available to answer questions. Unless prohibited, I intend to hold "coffee with the Trustee" on a recurring basis (weekly) to ensure parents can question me and discuss concerns they might have.