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## Arkansas Arts Academy Board of Education Application Tony Mathers

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Name	Tony Mathers
Education (high school, college/degree)	BS Electrical Engineering from Penn State
Years associated with AAA how	5 years; 10th, 8th, & K
Current employment/employer/profession	Self - Business Owner -
List a point of view statement (1500 characters maximum)	<p>My name's Tony Mathers and I'm here to build ladders for our students to succeed in school and life.</p> <p>Too many have succeeded in the world, only to turn around and pull the ladder up behind them. This is why society is broken, by those at the top hoarding, taking away opportunities for others, holding positions longer than they should, by keeping as much for themselves as possible.</p> <p>This puts our graduating students behind. They're stuck trying to survive day by day, unable to grow for years, if ever, with no one lending a hand out to guide or help.</p> <p>Many youths when they graduate are ill equipped to handle what's considered the basics of life; communication skills, basic troubleshooting skills, how to write a resume, and so on.</p> <p>The only way to achieve this is by providing strong leadership with one cohesive vision. Virtual schooling showed how without a unified direction, everyone is left confused.</p> <p>The school board has failed to provide opportunities to our students last year by trying to cut basketball and soccer programs. The board needs to guide AAA to the future by giving the students and faculty what they want and what they need, not by serving only their goals. I want to change that by having constant dialogue between faculty, students, and parents.</p> <p>Not only that, I want to improve communication and transparency between parents, faculty and students at the school. Communication is all over the place at AAA, with faculty often left to figure out the best way forward. Teachers did an amazing job during the challenges over the last year, but were tasked with creating systems for attendance, communication, and more, which</p>

they shouldn't have been. This shows why there needs to be cohesive leadership.

I want to enhance the use of technology in communications between staff and parents. I want to maintain constant, open dialogue with the staff and teachers. I want parents to be updated quickly and efficiently. I want students to have a clear understanding of what is expected of them so teachers can teach, students can learn, and parents no longer be their kids' secretaries.

Lastly, I want to create a program for all of the kids to learn life skills so upon graduation they're ready to hit the ground running.

Most importantly, I want all students of AAA to leave the school with a solid foundation to head out into the world. The only way is to build ladders for them, to help them succeed. I'm ready to build as many ladders as I can, but we can build so many more by working together; parents, students, and faculty alike.

Join me. Let's build some ladders together.

List goals/objectives as a member of the Arkansas Arts Academy Board of Education (1500 characters maximum)

- 1) Change the leadership of the school board.
- 2) Provide consistent leadership for faculty, students, and teachers.
- 3) Improve communication to parents.
- 4) More open dialogue with teachers to help meet their needs
- 5) Create a life skills program to help students prepare for life.