

My name is Jorge Medina and I am running to continue as one of the parent representatives on the Site Based Decision Making Council. I have two children currently enrolled at Maxwell. Daniel will be continuing on in the Spanish Immersion Program at BSTMS. Our youngest, David, is in third grade.

The opportunity to learn a second language at such a critical age is a gift for our children. I am dedicated to the immersion philosophy and I am so pleased that my children have had the chance to learn in two languages with such a dedicated faculty and staff. Being an immersion school comes with special challenges. The decisions of the SBDM are critical in ensuring a strong curriculum and preserving the language experience for all the students.

I am originally from Puerto Rico. I came to Kentucky to attend the University of Kentucky to pursue my doctorate degree. After that, I taught Spanish at Murray State University and was involved in training university students to become language teachers. When it was time for Daniel to enroll in Kindergarten, we returned to Lexington so that he would have a chance to attend Maxwell. Unfortunately, his name was not picked in the lottery for his Kindergarten year or the next year for first grade. Finally, he was able to enroll when he was in second grade by taking the proficiency test. Our dream of an education in Spanish came true. We had to wait until first grade for our second son to be able to enroll in Maxwell. I know just how lucky my children are to be able to go to this school. This is a very unique opportunity for both of them to learn another language.

I have been an involved parent in my sons' education. After serving this past year as one of the parent representatives for Maxwell, I have gained more understanding of how the SBDM Council functions. I would like to continue being your parent representative 2010-2011 academic year. Without a doubt, serving in the council before has been an eye opening experience. I would like to continue that involvement by serving as a parent representative on the Site Based Decision Making Council. The Council gives parents an opportunity to have their voice heard in making decisions that impact their children's education.

I appreciate your interest in the elections and I hope to be able to serve you in the coming school year.

Ray Smith currently serves as your SBDM Parent Representative. He has a current 2nd grader at Maxwell and an 8th grader at Bryan Station Middle in the SIP. He teaches 6th grade at Crawford Middle School and has performed consulting roles (regarding the teaching of literacy) for the Kentucky Department of Education, KET, and various school systems in the New York City, North Carolina, and Kentucky areas. Additionally, Ray is conversational in Spanish and takes the learning of second languages seriously. His family has made numerous travels to Central Mexico and has even scheduled such trips for other SIP families.