2026 Election

Candidate Profile:
April Herring

Check all that apply:

- ☑ Parent/Legal Guardian of PALM Student(s)
- ☑ Resident of South Carolina

College and Training:
Hgtc
Diploma Conway High

Board Experience:

How do you hope to advance the mission of PALM by serving on the board?
N/a

2026 Election

Candidate Profile:
Richard Rivers
Product Engineer, Ebtron, Inc.

Check all that apply:

- ☑ Experience with Business
- ☑ Parent/Legal Guardian of PALM Student(s)
- ☑ Resident of South Carolina
- ☑ Graduated College

College and Training:
ITT Technical Institute AST - Electronics Technology
Trained in business management
Trained in Oral Communications
Skilled with budgets and scheduling in manufacturing with 45+ employees
Skilled in maintaining and forecasting inventory for multi-million-dollar corporations
Skilled in process engineering to improve efficiency
Skilled in resolving personnel conflicts and other issues
Skilled in procedure creation and personnel training
Trained in LEAN manufacturing techniques
Trained in OSHA and safety requirements
Extensive knowledge in many areas of electronics technology
Extensive knowledge in automotive mechanics and autobody
Familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order

Board Experience:
Jammin' 4 Jesus – Non-profit group fund raising and operational assistant
SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department - Business Partnership Network Member
SC Govener's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities – Employer of the Year Nomination
PALM Board of Director - Interim Appointment

How do you hope to advance the mission of PALM by serving on the board?
I too struggled in high school, like many of the students at PALM. Part of my issues were an undiagnosed case of ADD. This was later discovered in my adult years as I worked through a tough personal situation. I even left high school before graduating, to work. I was lucky to have learned a few trades as I grew up, so I was able to find good employment. These fields included auto mechanics, building and working on Featherlite Modified open wheel race cars, auto body collision repair, and carpentry. I soon realized, with the help and guidance of my parents, that I wanted to finish my high school education and did so at night, while working full time as a

carpenter.

I worked in the carpentry field for the next ten years before realizing I wanted and needed health insurance, a retirement plan, paid holidays and paid vacations. At this point I enrolled in ITT Technical Institute and received an associate's degree in applied science (AAS Electronics Engineering Technology). I worked hard and graduated with a 3.9 GPA, second in my class. I was even chosen to give the commencement address at the graduation ceremony.

I then moved from New Hampshire to South Carolina (due to 3 feet of snow on April 1st) and found employment at a company in Loris. I have been there for 27 years and currently work as a product engineer performing electronics and mechanical engineering duties in the process of creating new and supporting existing airflow and temperature measuring equipment. This equipment is installed in large commercial buildings and is used to maintain healthy indoor air quality. These buildings include schools, hospitals, office buildings, etc., or any buildings having a large number of occupants.

I started as an electronics technician and quickly took on the duties of the QC manager. Within a short period of time, I moved to the engineering group and helped design a new advanced product line that moved the company into the future. The basis of those designs is still seen in the company's current product lines. Soon after the huge success of the new product release, I took over as the production manager, producing the company's first million-dollar month. After 14 years of working in these other processes at Ebtron, I realized I missed the creative process of building new and maintaining existing products, along with improving manufacturing processes, so moved back to engineering.

I also specify most of our manufacturing equipment including a stencil printer, pick and place, reflow oven and selective solder machines used to build our own electronic circuit board for our product assemblies. I also manage our maintenance and regulatory compliance departments. Along with various committees to assist potential employees with disabilities to find employment and create workstations to assist in job related tasks.

I mention this above, to show anything is possible, no matter what obstacles may be placed in front of you! I want the opportunity to help and continue building PALM into the nationally recognized amazing school I think it can become. My son is a senior at PALM this year and I want to be sure the school is providing the best for the current and future students that need a school like PALM. A place with leadership that strives for excellence in the years to come. We need leadership for all the current and future students of PALM to help them learn and grow into positive members of our society. THEY ARE OUR FUTURE!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

2026 Election

Candidate Profile:
JoAnn Luyster
General Manager, Elko Spas Billiards and Pools

Check all that apply:

- ☑ Experience with Business
- ☑ Parent/Legal Guardian of PALM Student(s)
- ☑ Resident of South Carolina

College and Training:
SUNY Morrisville Business Administration
Formal Board Training through SC State

Board Experience:
1.5 years - Served as PALM Board Parent Member

How do you hope to advance the mission of PALM by serving on the board?
Having previously served a full term on the PALM Board, I have developed a strong understanding of the schools mission, goals, and impact on the Children as well as the community. If given the opportunity to serve again, I hope to build on that experience by contributing thoughtful leadership, fostering collaboration, and helping strengthen programs that support PALM's vision. I am committed to bringing consistency, fresh ideas, and a willingness to actively engage with the board members, students, and the community. My goal is to help PALM continue to grow not only increasing the student body to full capacity, but also with report card grades and effective teachers and leadership.

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Candidate Profile:
Raymond Caluori
Retired FDNY & Master Electrician , Varsity Electric

Check all that apply:

- ☑ Experience with Business
- ☑ Parent/Legal Guardian of PALM Student(s)
- ☑ Resident of South Carolina
- ☑ Graduated College

College and Training:
Nassau Community College AAS

Board Experience:
Officer and Council Member of Uniondale Fire Department

How do you hope to advance the mission of PALM by serving on the board?
I'd like to bring real world experiences into the curriculum with emphasis on trades and civil services. Also, by finding ways to create new revenue for PALM by Initiating inquiries as to what grants and opportunities are available for the school.

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Candidate Profile:
Thomas Smith
Senior Pastor / Substitute Teacher

Check all that apply:

- ☑ Experience with Business
- ☑ Experience with K-12 Education
- ☑ Resident of South Carolina
- ☑ Graduated College

College and Training:
Catawba College, Salisbury, NC Bachelor of Arts (Political Science)
M.Min & Th.D Coving Theological Seminary & Slidell Baptist Seminary
Certified Teacher (ABCTE) 5th-12th grade - General Science

Board Experience:

How do you hope to advance the mission of PALM by serving on the board?
The Mission of PALM is to focus the individual learner on developing their academic and skills training into career, social, and academic goals through the development of supportive relationships that foster individual responsibility and accountability through a comprehensive rigorous academic and competency-based curriculum. I have experience teaching in Horry County Schools, PALM and as a high school teacher at Christian Academy of Myrtle Beach. This experience gives me the experience to understand the academic skills and curriculums that are necessary to help students become learners, graduates and future employees. Having also taught Biology / Science at PALM a few years ago (and being a substitute teacher in HCS and PALM) - I understand PALM's student dynamic as well as the importance of a school like PALM. Being a pastor of a church here in Conway, gives me a unique ability to form relationships and show compassion. PALM administrators, teachers and students all need a governing body that supports and understands the school. I believe that I do. My interest in serving on the board is that I may be able bring a teachers perspective, a pastors perspective and a parents perspective to PALM. My other reason for wanting to serve on the board is my love for motorsports. My family has been involved with racing since Dale Earnhardt Sr. was driving on the dirt track in Concord, NC. We have been car owners, drivers and by brother still works for Hendrick Motorsports. PALM has so much potential - I want to help keep it a school heading in the right direction.