



## October 1, 2024

### Summary transcript of Tony Katz & The Morning News commentary on CCS School Board Debate

The full show can be found at **93 WIBC Tony Katz & The Morning News**

[. \(https://wibc.com/schedule/tony-katz-morning-news/-EX\)](https://wibc.com/schedule/tony-katz-morning-news/-EX)

Tony Katz, 93 WIBC, good morning. Last night, Carmel Clay school board had a debate, four candidates running for two positions on the school board. I would encourage everybody to make sure they're paying attention to what's happening locally. Tony Katz, 93 WIBC, good morning. Two of those candidates have reached out to me about sitting down and having coffee. I did not respond because I didn't know if I was going to get involved. Didn't know if that's what I'm supposed to do. I always question those things.

One of those candidates called me. I think was one of the candidates who called me because they were given my phone number, which, don't be giving out my phone number. I had that conversation. I was pretty direct about it.

There are times I don't get back in touch because I don't think it's the right thing to do. I don't think my job is to get involved in the thing. And also, I've got my own studying to do. I gotta know that I want to have these conversations. I call it guarded. I call it rational. Nothing against any of these candidates. I said, I know I'm going to attend the debate. I'd actually gotten tickets, but I had gone to a fundraiser instead, and said **I'll watch the live stream, and I did with Robin Clark and Dina Ferchmin and Jon Shapiro and Kristina Wheeler.**

And what I saw, after a little bit of niceties, was that even our school board race is nothing more than a continuation of our national politics. And while I don't want to take the show and say, here's a problem with a school board, a race or a school board member, these races matter, and I would have this commentary about any other school board.

So I bring it to you now about Kristina Wheeler, who is running for school board and touted repeatedly that her and Jon Shapiro were endorsed by this group and that group. They were endorsed by Jim Brainard, the former mayor of Carmel, which for me, is enough to say, "you're out." Brainard could envision a city. Brainard also was a Republican because, well, it was just easier for him to write an R than a D. I don't, I don't, I don't know this took place. I and this was part of my problem. Thank you.

"I don't think we've brought partisanship in this race. Neither Mr. Shapiro nor I have brought in one party or another. As I stated in my opening statement, we have been endorsed by a non-partisan PAC that was open to my opponents, they just didn't apply because, apparently, they had no interest in being non-partisan. And their own statements and their websites show that, as well as their social media and who they find themselves with. I encourage you to check out what they themselves have posted. These two ladies I respect a great deal, and I assure you, nothing about them is the moderate Republicans that I know and love in our community. Nothing about their positions reflect moderation.

That's what I believe that my position and Mr. Shapiro's position reflects, and it's important to understand, "I'm going to stop right there." The crowd did boo her. Producer Carl was in the crowd. They reacted to that idea of moderate Republicans. "Well, yeah, we were all instructed to keep quiet during the debate, and her comment caused people to stir and hiss." This was the second time she had done it, though, because in a conversation of something called the Valor School, which is about whether a school building could be utilized for a charter school, does it fall under Indiana law for selling the building for \$1 or should they keep the building? She referred to it as an ultra-right school, without defining it in two different instances, Kristina Wheeler decided to alienate attack, and vilify people who disagree with her politically.



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At one moment, she described her own daughter's going to school. She described her daughter as gay, and said basically that what her daughter had to go through was horrific. She started by saying, "this is personal for me," [a lot like] Tim Walz, and clearly got emotional as I took it, she called the students, the teachers and the administrators at Carmel High School, bigots. That's how I took it. I'm there listening, and she made this argument that somehow the school is not doing enough to ensure all our students are safe.

It was an hour and a half, and I didn't know where the local conversation was. You know, I felt bad for this guy, Jon Shapiro, who I don't know, because Kristina Wheeler spent so much time tying herself to him and tying him to her and all the endorsements she came across so horrifically that he's going to get dragged down with her.

This was about, this was a national thing. This was the worst level of politics. **This was MSNBC nonsense, as opposed to the subjects that matter.** And there were some subjects that matter, and the Current people did a great job. And [Ann] Marie, who was the emcee, the moderator, did an excellent job. There were some good questions when they got answered.

**This was just ugly as can be, and there is no possibility I vote for Kristina Wheeler, and I'm going to be now very loud about the fact that this isn't somebody who should be on a school board.**

I discussed the mayor's race in Carmel. Now I'm discussing this. You can't vilify people like this on a school board race that you're upset, that is being made partisan and get people to stay quiet and get my vote. No chance.

*Note: The audio has been transcribed with minor edits for spelling and typos.*

**Click link below to listen to commentary of the CCS School Board debate segment of the show.**

<https://bit.ly/3XWfGY4>