

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

Hans Peter Plotsener CMS Board of Education District 3

1. What are the top three issues facing our school district? How would you propose to tackle these issues?

- a. The increasing drop-rate of high school students and achievement gap. -- Pls see response to Q2.
- b. Budgets no longer growing or being cut. -- Focus on teachers and better facilities in exchange for smaller administration, including less executives.
- c. 'Bright Flight', i.e. more and more parents choose alternatives to public schools. Disappointments, distrust (see e. g. Mint Hill boundaries discussion) will lead to worse image of quality of CLT/Meck schools (see e.g. McClintock MS), and lead to lower property values. - Involve and consider public opinion, make decisions transparent by publishing and applying consistent criteria. (See also Q2 and my web site www.DrPlots.com).

2. Why are so many students (especially low-income and minority youth) failing state exams and dropping out, and what can Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools do to change that?

Why? -

Insufficient consideration of different backgrounds and objectives of our students; insufficient link between what is taught and its application and relevancy to future job and life; handling high school students like children rather than young adults (responsibility, expectations, etc.)

Most important first steps -

- a. Create occupation-oriented high schools like in European countries with focus applied knowledge (e.g. focus on business English with less Shakespeare, accounting, and budgeting) and the option to go on to college. High school graduates should be prepared for qualified jobs. Not everyone has the same talents or interests.
- b. Individual Education Plans for EACH child not just for those with disabilities to maintain a high level of motivation.
- c. More teachers with work experience in industry and administration.
Please visit www.DrPlots.com for more info.

3. How do you believe Mecklenburg County should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for the County? Should purchasers of new homes be responsible for funding these services for the entire County? Do you believe that these types of proposals are a fair way to pay for required services to existing taxpayers?

No, such expenses need to be covered via regular operating budgets, not by the purchasers of new homes via land transfer taxes, impact fees, etc.

4. **What would you propose to do to reduce expenses in line with the reduced funding from the state?**

Reduce costs for administration (e.g. cut or assign to school buildings half of the 1,500+ admin people; discontinue Learning Communities or better empower them to make decentralized decisions - with citizen involvement, eliminate current duplications), less 'executives' with pay over \$100K, optimized bus routes with focus on neighborhood schools *in favor of* highly qualified teachers, better facilities, and improved cooperation with business (internships, for example re-instate Tech Connect program).

5. **Would you support the use of an accounting system that tracks per-pupil/per-school expenses and student performance at the individual school level for comparative purposes?**

Yes.

6. **What are your suggestions for innovative new funding sources for school capital projects?**

Joint ventures involving businesses and private investors (especially for sports facilities, allowing advertising and 'adoption'), multi-purpose facilities that can partially be leased), and Bonds.

7. **What suggestions do you have that would reduce transportation costs for the District? Do you support allowing older children to use public transportation to get to and from school?**

Increased focus on neighborhood schools.

Yes to allowing children to use public transportation.

Consolidation of 1,300 school buses with 400 City buses.

8. **If elected, how do you view your role as School Board Member?**

- a. Facilitator for improved cooperation between Board members and professionalism with focus on education as our primary mission vs. social engineering considerations. - I believe, I can be successful in that role due to my extensive background and experience both in education and business (for more details, please visit <http://www.drplots.com/qualifications.html>).
- b. Make it an explicit effort to keep the focus on Students and Teachers.
- c. Contribute to establishing transparent and consistent policies and criteria for key decision making processes, e.g. determination of school boundaries.