

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

James Ross, II
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?**
1. Reduction in funding by the state and county. Support cuts that have minimum impact on classrooms. 2. Lack of teamwork between CMS Board, other elected officials, parents, superintendent and community. Continue my efforts to be a consensus builder through team building and collaboration. 3. Low performing schools. Continue to support the “Freedom, Flexibility and Accountability” initiative that develops principals and places them in neediest situations.
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?**
A large number of students leave school because we don't provide career choices that appeal to them. We need to provide a wider variety of vocational/entrepreneurial offerings and we are providing home contact for students who have attendance problems.
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?**
Taxes are the accepted way to fund capital costs, but those taxes should be fair to all. No group should be responsible for the entire county.
4. **What would you propose to do to reduce expenses in line with the reduced funding from the state?**
I supported the across the board reductions that CMS made in response to the states reduction.
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, we are working on implementing a system comparable to this idea. Having this kind of information makes “Freedom, Flexibility and Accountability possible.
6. **What are your suggestions for innovative new funding sources for school capital projects?**
I don't have any. I think getting flexibility from the state on construction mandates can reduce the costs of capital costs.

- 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?**

Make sure when drawing boundaries that distances students have to travel have high priority. I see few problems allowing high school students to use public transportation; we used public transportation when I attended high school.

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

I view my role as policy maker and consensus builder, and because I am elected from a district I also view my role as advocate; representing the educational concerns of District 3 constituents through high accessibility and timely response to issues and concerns.