

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

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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?**

Three issues facing our school district are:

- a. Academic achievement:
- b. Teacher Assignments
- c. Parental and Community Support

Academic Achievement can be tackled by working intensively on individual student learning styles. More emphasis should be placed on teaching the student and less on advancing an abundance of subject materials.

Teacher Assignments should be by strategic placements. There should be a mixture of experienced and inexperienced teachers in every classroom. Low achieving schools should not have a majority of first and second year teachers, more experienced teachers working with these beginners will help in creating a more balanced learning atmosphere for students.

Parental and Community Support helps with the success of students and with the success of the schools. Schools must reach out to parents and plan activities for involvement. Many activities for schools and the community are effective when held at community centers, businesses, and facilities in the community.

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?**

Attendance continues to be a problem in the school system; students must be present to receive instructions and to achieve in order to pass exams. CMS can work with parents on contracts between students, teachers, parents, and the schools as partners, each specifically supporting one plan for student success.

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?**

Mecklenburg County should continue with that which is working for funding services with the current funding source. Many cities have a special tax just for these services and it works. It would be good in this county provided a tax specifically for these services. Purchases of new homes should be willing to pay their fair share; developers should be taxed for services on a one time basis.

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

Any services provided to citizens not considered necessary should be studied for possible cuts. Some would include outdoor recreation activities, low attendance in entertainment to citizens.

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, I do believe that such does exist at this point; however, it can be refined to be more specific. As we track expenses per pupil, it would be important to also include data related to goals and performance.

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

One suggestion would be to increase partnerships with Central Piedmont Community College and businesses in the area. Many buildings, track fields can become a joint venture. Some of this is happening with Queens College and the Eastover Elementary School, also with the CATO campus and Central Piedmont Community College.

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?**

Now the bus, transports many students to magnet programs and special programs. Much of this special transportation could become the responsibility of parents. In many large cities students are transported on public transportation. If this is proposed, the maturity of the student should be carefully considered and ease with the transportation systems. With many transfers, students will not be able to arrive to school on time and tardiness would be a big factor.

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

I see my role as a team player, realizing that with a 9 member board it takes 5 votes to pass a motion. The major role of the school board is to hire the superintendent, present a balanced budget and help to develop policies for the school system. I see myself functioning very well in each of these areas. I have thirty years experience in education including classroom teacher, central office supervisor, and school administrator. Twenty one years were in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, where I have served under the leadership of seven superintendents.