

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

Nicole E. Hudson 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 the school district are: low graduation rates, low achievement scores and lack of parental involvement. The role of the superintendent is to develop the strategy. As a board member, my role is to develop the policy to drive the strategy.

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?**

I believe lack of parental involvement is one of the primary reasons. CMS and parents have shared responsibility in a child's education. I believe CMS's Parent University is a good start but I would encourage strengthened relationships and partnership to address this issue with places that parents have relationship and buy-in. This includes the businesses and churches, which ultimately benefit the overall community.

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?**

I believe the school board should have taxing authority. It would make board members more directly accountable to taxpayers and eliminate the friction between the Board of Education and Board of County Commission. I believe the funding of the schools is a community issue and should not be imposed on any one group of citizens.

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

I believe expenses that do not directly impact learning should be examined. Outsourcing and partnership opportunities exist where the system can return to their core business (educating and graduating students). An example of that are the satellite offices.

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. However this should not determine how you fund schools. Equity is about funding the needs. Some need more and they should not be limited in funding just to ensure equal funding to students with less needs.

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

Private partnerships for leasing commercial and retail space (effective for schools such as University of Phoenix – my former employer). Excess land also can be sold to generate one-time revenue or could be leased.

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?

The district has moved in the right direction by eliminating 11,000 miles traveled recently. I believe in consolidating routes and I support older children utilizing public transportation.

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

My role is leadership and vision for the system. I serve a district but represent all children. My role is to outline a high standard and work with the Superintendent to achieve that standard and assist in removing obstacles.