

2009 SPPACE QUESTIONNAIRE

**Teresa Tudor
CMS Board of Education – District 3**

1. What are the top three issues facing our school district?

1) high dropout rate – the dropout rate for CMS was 5.91 for school year 2007/08, although that is a decrease from 6.39 the previous year, that is still well above the State Average. 2) increasing Achievement Gap 3) Low Parent involvement – many of our performance schools, have low parent involvement.

How would you propose to tackle these issues?

1) strategically place effective Teachers and Administrators in schools throughout the County, also develop and implement intervention strategies. 2) the strategic placement of effective Teachers and Administrators in schools throughout our County 3) go into the neighborhoods, talk with the parents, and develop a plan that will promote parental involvement.

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?

Parental involvement is much lower at the schools that have a high number of low-income students; this lack of parental involvement contributes to the low test scores and high dropout rate. Also many of the schools with a high concentration of low-income students also have a low number of effective teachers on staff – those students require teachers who are capable of producing more than a year's worth of growth in their students

3. How do you believe Mecklenburg County should fund school capital costs, parks, roads, transit, police and fire protection needs for the County?

I have always been one who believed that we should try to keep taxes as low as possible, but for the growth that Mecklenburg County has made and foresees in the future, we will have to fund those items with taxes. I think the taxes should be county-wide.

Should purchasers of new homes be responsible for funding these services for the entire County?

No. I do not agree with that, I think adding those fees will hurt our real-estate market in Mecklenburg County. 7 ½ years ago I was the purchaser, pregnant with my 1st child, and had little cash to put down on a home. My husband and I probably would not have purchased a home if fees for the above services were added to the purchase price.

Do you believe that these types of proposals are a fair way to pay for required services to existing taxpayers?

No. Taxes are going to increase because our City/County is growing rapidly, what I do not believe is that the people who bring revenue to our county (home buyers) should be required to pay additional fees. Continue to distribute the taxes as they have been in the past.

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

Remove more over-head expenses, reduce the Learning Community staff and put Learning Community employees in the schools throughout their communities. This reduces costs in 2 ways - the reduction of staff saves money on salary and benefits and putting the employees in the schools allows CMS to end office leases.

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. This will allow us to determine where funding needs to go. The system will pay for itself over the years by allowing CMS to have access to data that will give comparison of cost per student to student achievement.

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

I suggest the school system go into the community for backing and support from Corporations. There are businesses in Mecklenburg County that can financially help our school system and write off the costs, let's utilize that.

7. What suggestions do you have that would reduce transportation costs for the District?

At this time I do not have a suggestion for reducing transportation costs, I am aware that the Board eliminated hundreds of bus stops for the 2009/2010 school year, but I am not sure that was an effective move.

Do you support allowing older children to use public transportation to get to and from school?

No and Yes.

No - Public Transportation puts more costs on the parents, let's think of the children living in low-income homes.

Yes - Some students choose Public Transportation because they want to attend a school that does not provide busing to their zone, in that case it's a parental/student choice.

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

My role as a School Board member is a policy maker, a person chosen to hire/fire the Superintendent, one to hold those working for CMS accountable for the actions they make, and to be a representative of the parents, students and tax payers in Mecklenburg County, to hear and address their concerns ☺