

Support Schools Now Response to Questionnaire

Questions:

1. Funding WJC operating and capital budgets.

I support quality education with proper funding and accountability by the Williamsburg/ James City County School System. James City County provides 53% of the County's operating budget to fund the W/JCC School System ,making accountability critical to the residents of James City County.

2. Proper Funding for teachers and support staff and salaries.

I support competitive salaries for teachers and support staff, these salaries should be competitive with other local school systems. To retain quality teachers and support staff, our school system must provide competitive salaries and benefits.

3. Funding for fully staffed schools and available space in permanent buildings not trailers.

I am opposed to the use of classroom trailers. I feel classroom trailers do not provide a quality and productive environment for learning. To achieve this, a larger student teacher ratio may be required. Our current student to teacher ratio average is 16.4 to one teacher, based on last years numbers 9820 students to 598 teacher

4. Determination how much funding to provide WJC Schools' operating and capital spending.

Funding should base on county tax revenue, state and federal funding. The school system would have to maintain a balance budget including an emergency fund set-a-side. Factors should include; consumer cost of living index for our area, student teacher ratio and operating expenses. Capital spending would be based on these factors and a more accurate accounting of future enrollment of students based on the mixed of county residents age and family demographics.

5. Existing relationship between Board of Supervisors and the School Board

I feel there is currently a good working relationship between both boards, based on the capital expenditures for new schools and the large percentage 56% of the county operating budget dedicated to the school board.

6. Conditions the Board of Supervisors should direct educational policy.

The School Board should validate expenditures and produce positive results based on funding, provided by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors

should recommend funding based on educational policy. The School Board should be responsible for educational policy.

7. Acquiring property for school sites for eminent domain

I am not a supporter of eminent domain. Citizens should be able to retain their rights of ownership of their property.

8. Proper Funding by the Board of Supervisors and Return of Schools Funds

The Board of Supervisors have been fair with proper funding to the school system, in light of the current short-fall in the county budget the school system should be held harmless and not made to return funding. However in light of the current short-fall the school board should take steps to cut back in spending and take into consideration lower enrollment than projected this school year, in formulating next year budget.

9. Expansion of Pre-School Opportunities for At-Risk Students

I am in full support of pre-school program for 4-year olds, and at risk students. Early investment in children's education produces more productive citizens and enables our students to compete in our global economy. The Virginia Pre-School Initiative (VPI) partnerships with the Federal Head-Start Program, and other pre-school programs that have limited enrollment this program provides low to middle income families with income above federal guidelines to participate in pre-school programs. I am in full support of Governor Kaines' Pre-K plans to expand on the existing Preschool Initiative with additional funding to be voted on in the general Assembly.

10. Recommendation for Capital Funds for Alternative Education Facility

I support the Alt-ED Program by retaining the CEO Program, if funding is an issue, I would support partnership in the private sector for funding for on-site training, this would be a Win – Win situation for all parties involved. All students are not college bound and a investment in this program would be a wise decision financially and a wise investment in their future. As a former College Counselor I advocated Job Training Programs to learn a skill and to obtain a college education. As a high school student I worked in a work study program after school with a commercial photographer, this skill enable me to work by way thru college.

11. General Operations and Challenges in the School Division

Having served as a PTA President, College Admissions Counselor, Mentor for At-Risk Males and a board member of the Community Action Agency for seven years and currently chairman, I have some insight of the challenges and general operation of the school division. As a product of the public school system as

well as by two adult daughters, I have been involved from pre-school thru college and post- graduate study with my children and I am concern about the welfare of the children of our community. Both daughters are college grads, my oldest daughter Traci C. Drummond, is a graduate of Norfolk State University with a BS in Communications, and is currently Director of Operations at National Geographic in Washington, D.C., my youngest daughter Candice Drummond- Gary is a graduate of N.C. A&T University with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and a MBA from Duke University, and is currently employed as a Senior Contract Specialist with Med-Star Health Services in Washington D.C.