

Goodson

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SUPPORT SCHOOLS NOW

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JAMES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES

Please answer each question below and EXPLAIN your answers in a DETAILED manner:

1. Will fully funding WJC Schools' operating and capital budgets as proposed by the WJC School Board be your top priority? If not, why not?

WJCC School funding is always a priority and should always be appropriately funded.

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2. Are you committed to providing funding to WJC Schools so that teachers' salaries (as well as salaries of other support staff such as teacher assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc.) are highly competitive with divisions in our region of the state as well as divisions across the state in areas with financial resources similar to our own (as measured by the state's "composite index")?

WJCC funding that I have approved has brought our teacher salaries to a point they are extremely competitive with neighboring systems, and I expect that would continue. I believe school division staff should receive similar increases to other county staff each year.

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3. Are you committed to providing funding to WJC Schools so that schools are fully staffed and space is available (primarily in permanent buildings, not trailers) to keep class sizes down?

I have supported the construction of new schools when needed and will continue to do so. I have also supported identifying sites for future school in advance of need.

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4. How will you determine how much funding to provide to WJC Schools' operating and capital budgets? What factors will be part of your decision making process? Do you believe that the school division spends funds effectively and efficiently or do you believe there is significant wasteful spending?

I count on the school board to make responsible budget decisions considering both the students and taxpayers. I look to county FMS staff, citizen input and my own assessments when considering funding levels. I would hope no public official would support wasteful spending of public tax dollars.

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5. What is your vision of the relationship that should exist between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board? What is your perception of the relationship that exists today? If elected, would you change this relationship that exists? If so, how?

There is a cordial and respectful relationship between the boards and I expect that to continue. We should continue with open dialogue and regular meetings of school liaison and board retreats.

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6. Under what conditions should the Board of Supervisors direct educational policy by placing conditions on funding?

The Board of Supervisors cannot place conditions on funding outside of the city/county contract for joint operation of schools.

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7. Are you willing to acquire property for school sites using eminent domain if necessary? If so, under what conditions would you utilize eminent domain? If not, why not? While I did support acquiring property by eminent domain in the past when necessary, I believe we are taking the needed steps to have sites available in the future.

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8. In the most recent budget cycle do you think the Board of Supervisors provided too little funding, too much funding or just the right amount of funding for the schools? In light of the

recent \$2.8 million shortfall in the county budget, should the schools be held harmless or should the schools be made to return funds?

The funding level in the budget is appropriate, but if enrollment is lower than anticipated, I will expect for the school board to revisit their budget. I do understand that state funding will be reduced from budgeted levels if the student population is not at budgeted levels.

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9. Do you support the school division's efforts to expand preschool opportunities for at-risk students? Would you support with additional county funds local efforts to expand preschool opportunities even further in collaboration with the school division, private preschools and the state?

James City County has been a leader in the Commonwealth for locally funded preschool program and I expect that to continue. We have always funded more than required by the state, and I am sure will will consider carefully the funding requirements of new preschool programs adopted by the General Assembly.

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10. If recommended by the Alternative Education Task Force, would you support capital funds for a facility to house alternative education programs for students long-term suspended or expelled and those who learn better in an environment outside of regular schools? I supported capital funds for the Alternative Education Facility which the school board chose to reconsider. With the new five year lease at Eastern State, we have plenty of time to determine a permanent location and I am looking forward to hearing the results of the Task Force.

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11. How familiar are you in general with the operation of the school division and how well do you think you understand the challenges it faces? After 8 years serving in county government and having 2 children attend WJCC schools, I am quite knowledgeable about the operation and challenges of the school division.