

Winston-Salem / Forsyth County School Board Voter Guide

HAVE AN IMPACT ON EDUCATION...

VOTE

FOR WS/FCS BOARD OF EDUCATION
ON NOVEMBER 2, 2010



FORSYTH EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP

FORSYTH EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP
P.O. Box 141 Winston-Salem, NC 27102
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*Forsyth Education Partnership, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization,
does not endorse or support any candidate.*

Forsyth Education Partnership

Have an Impact on Education...Vote!

What is this guide about?

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education is rather unique in two ways. For the first time in 2010 the members of the Board of Education will be elected in a non-partisan election. In addition, while all nine seats on the Board are up for election, in the future the members will be elected for staggered terms of four years. There are two District One seats, four District two seats and three At-large seats. You can vote for the candidates in your district **and** for three candidates running at-large. *Have an Impact on Education...Vote!* is a voter guide designed to introduce the candidates running in the general election on Tuesday, November 2, 2010. This guide includes each candidate's biographical information and response to a set of questions designed to help you determine those individuals most qualified to lead our schools.

Who is this guide for?

You! Whatever role you play in our community— parent or non-parent, businessperson, homemaker, retiree, grandparent or interested citizen— the quality of our public schools impacts your life in many ways every day. A strong, committed Board of Education is vital to the success of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools and its approximately 50,000 students.

A well-informed voter makes better decisions in the voting booth. Before you cast your vote, read this guide and decide who can best lead our schools. A knowledgeable voter can impact the future for our schools and community.



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Forsyth Education Partnership

Dear Forsyth County Voter,

Everyone is talking about education, the President, the U. S. Secretary of Education, members of Congress, state representatives and candidates for your local board of education. It seems like everyone has an opinion on the subject. In this Voter Guide you will find information about the candidates for the WS/FC Board of Education and their responses to several questions asked by Forsyth Education Partnership (FEP).

This Voter Guide is designed to help you, the voter, make an informed decision on Election Day, November 2nd. But this is not and should not be your only source of information. FEP, in cooperation with WS/FCS, is hosting a series of "Meet The Candidates" TV Programs that will be shown on Cable 2 the last two weeks in October. FEP is also posting candidates' responses to a "Question of the Week" each week during October on our website: ForsythEdPartnership.org.

Be an informed voter. Read stories in the newspaper about your local school system. Watch the meetings of the WS/FC Board of Education on Cable 2. Attend a public forum.

This information is of no value if you do not exercise your right to vote on November 2nd. Have an *Impact on Education* in your community – **VOTE!**

Douglas S. Pungert
President
Forsyth Education Partnership

Mission: The Forsyth Education Partnership (FEP) is an independent, nonprofit organization that facilitates community collaboration, commitment and action for education excellence in our public schools.

Vision: The FEP envisions Forsyth County as a community whose citizens are empowered and collaboratively engaged to ensure quality education for every child.

Do you know...

-In Forsyth County, there are a total of **9 Board of Education members** (2– District 1; 4– District 2; 3– At-large).

-All school board members are elected to **4-year terms**. There are no term limitations for school board members.

-All Board members are **elected in the same year** in Forsyth County but in the future they will be elected to staggered terms.

-The entire **Board of Education hires the Superintendent of Schools**, and he or she reports to the Board.

-The Board of Education's role is to **set policy for the school system and establish goals for the system**, not to be involved in day-to-day operations.

-The WS/FC Board of Education is responsible for **adopting an annual budget**, presently approximately \$450 million, approving the annual school calendar and determining school facility needs.

-The Board of Education is to **exert leadership and direction in increasing school achievement** for all public school students within Forsyth County.

Key Date to Remember...

Nov 2nd: General Election Voting Day

The Survey

Background Questions. These questions are designed to provide voters with basic biographical information about each candidate for the Board of Education.

1. **Personal and family history:** Includes such information as date and place of birth, where and how long each candidate has lived in Forsyth County and North Carolina; marital status, the number of children that each has and where they attend school.
2. **Educational background:** Includes such information as where candidates attended high school, college and graduate school, if any. Major field(s) of study. Degrees earned. Academic honors or awards.
3. **Occupation Career.** Includes such information as where candidates are currently employed and previous work experience.
4. **Community Involvement.** Includes such information as elected positions that candidates have held, volunteer activities, PTA and PTSA membership and leadership positions, and other involvement in charitable or community service programs or activities.

Issue Oriented Questions:

1. Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education?
2. The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education?
3. What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention?
4. This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not?
5. What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?"
6. In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed?
7. What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement?
8. Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels?
9. Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not?

District 1

2 seats

Jimmie Lee Bonham
Geneva Brown
Chenita B. Johnson
Vic Johnson

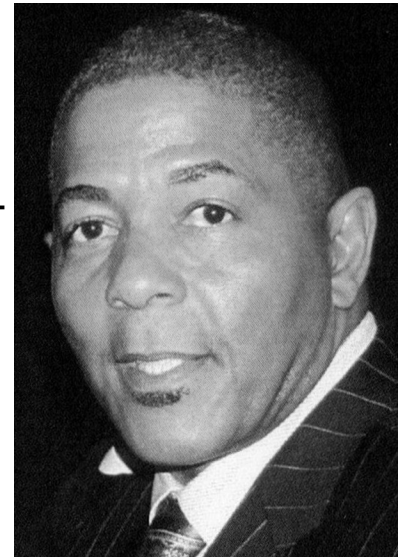
Jimmie Lee Bonham

Personal and family history: **Place of birth: Forsyth Co, Divorced, 4 Children 3 college grads and 1 senior**

Educational background: **Attended North Forsyth High, Winston-Salem State University, BA Wake Forest Univ. CPE Cert. Winston-Salem Barber School, Aurora Beauty College. Awards: Master OF The Craft Winston-Salem Chronicle Community Service Award**

Occupation Career: **United States Department Of Commerce, East Winston Primary School, Hair By Jimi, Pitts Missionary Baptist Church**

Community Involvement: **Chairman 12th Congressional District (Democratic Party) Member: Ministers' Conference Of Winston-Salem and Vicinity, Member: Shiloh St Peters Corporation, Member: Carver High School PTA**



Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I believe that the battle against education disparity is winnable. I believe that all students should be provided a sound basic education that will prepare them to meet the demands for college and a skilled workforce through technology. I believe in Family engagement, Parental involvement and Citizens involvement in decision-making for our school district.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I think a independent or performance audit would establish material weakness and strengths that would develop a baseline for corrective action for budget, finance etc.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **School Board role is to develop good policy for teacher recruitment, assessment, and placement.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **I would support a school bond only all of the MWBE participation goals are met.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **I believe in the construction of green and sustainable schools, schools that are environmentally friendly and safe.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **We must engage family, parents, community and citizens into the decision-making process early on.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **The school system need to look at effective and efficient ways for parity as it develop student assignment plans and teacher placement.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **(a) Eradicate the soft bigotry of low expectations (b) Ensure that all students and teachers get the necessary resources needed to equip our children (c) Engage family, parents, community and citizens participation**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **No**

Geneva Brown

Personal and family history: Born April 18, 1930, in Goldsboro, NC; Widow of Wendell D. Brown, Retired District Fire Chief-(Deceased 1997); Married 44 Years, One Daughter, Wynne R. Brown, M. D.; Two grandsons, Jerry Cooper II and Wendell Tyler Cooper

Educational background: Graduate Dillard High School-Goldsboro NC-1948; North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, NC, Bachelor of Science Fine Arts-1952; Winston-Salem State University, Winston-Salem, NC, certification in elementary education; North Carolina A & T State University, Greensboro, NC, Master of Science in Education-1960; Woman's College, UNC, Greensboro, NC, certification in school administration; University of California, Los Angeles, six years advanced study with Dr. Madeline Hunter



Occupation Career: 1952-1953 Art Teacher and Coach for Girl's Sports-Sampson County, North Carolina; 1953-1954 Coached Kate Bitting Reynolds Hospital Nurses' Basketball Team; 1953-1954 Owner and cobbler for Brown's Cleaners and Shoe Shop, East 14th Street; 1954-1966 Teacher Woodland Avenue & Brown Elementary Schools, WS/FC Schools; 1961-1966 Assistant Principal, Brown Elementary School, WS/FC Schools; 1966-1971 Principal, Mebane Elementary School WS/FC Schools; 1971-1990 Principal Moore Alternative Elementary School, WS/FC Schools; (System's first open concept, non graded, multi-aged grouping, year-round school. Wrote program and designed renovation plans for the building); 1990-1991 Director of Student/Minority Achievement, WS/FC Schools; 1991-1992 Director of Research, Development, Planning and Accountability, WS/FC; 1992 Retired March 31, 1992 from Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools; 1992- Member Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education; 1995- Worked as Director for six months at Family Services Head Start Program; NC Department Public Education, Staff Development for Selected Principals, (Even Champions Have Coaches); ASCD Elementary Consortium Networking Schools, Team Chairman (Submitted proposal in 1986 and was selected one of 25 schools in the nation to exchange information and strategies for developing Thinking Skills Program); Member of Review Board for the Carnegie Report, (one of three principals selected from state); Forsyth Principal's Association, President, 1 year; Elementary Principal's, Association President, 2 years; Steering Committee. WS/FC Education Bond Referendum; Runner up for Terry Sanford Award for Innovative Programs in Education-1973 and 1974; Forsyth County Principal of the Year-1987

Community Involvement: Present: Deaconess, First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue, Winston-Salem Teacher for Wednesday Midday Bible Study-First Baptist Church; Member Trustee Board, First Baptist Church, Highland Avenue. Winston-Salem; Sunday School Teacher for Adult Ushers for 20 plus year; Member Church Auxiliary-Women's Service Council; Kiwanis International-Member; Member Winston-Salem Parks and Recreation Commission; Life Member of the NAACP; Member Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; Member of Board Senior Services; Member of Board Forsyth County Work First Planning Committee-Department Social Services; Yearly Speaker for Education Classes at Winston-Salem State University; Announcer of the 30 Top PGA Golfers for the Pro Tour Championship in Atlanta-1998-2000-2002 and Slated for November 2004 Past: Board Member Reynolda House, Inc.; Forsyth Common Vision Council Vice Chairman 1995 & Chairman in 1996; Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools United Way Effort, Chairman, 1989; Artist Exhibitor at the Delta Fine Arts Center; Speaker for 17th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration-January 20, 1997; Speaker at various Public Schools, WSSU, Churches, Community Functions and Graduations; Education Consultant and Workshop Facilitator for Several Schools; Member of Phi Delta Kappa; Board Member Leadership Winston-Salem; Wachovia Symphony Board Member; Arts Council, Board Member; Best Choice Center, Board Member; Project Blueprint (Training Program for Minorities to Serve on Boards), Charter Member; NC Advisory Committee, NC Commission on Civil Rights, Board Member; Family Services, Board Member; Winston Lake YMCA, Board Member; Winston Salem Mass Transit Authority, Board Member, 6 years; Director of Annual Golf Tournament for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for eight years; East Winston Economic Development Task Force, Board Member; Wake

Geneva Brown

Forest University's Radio Station WFDD, Board Member; North Carolina Housing Foundation, Inc. Board Member

AWARDS: OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY Outstanding Award for Achievement in Education; 1985 WOMAN OF THE YEAR - Winston Salem Chronicle award for educational leadership and community involvement 1997; NATIONAL WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD-For excellence in career of education (April 29) 1997; TARHEEL TRIAD GIRL SCOUT "DREAM CATCHERS" AWARD for Leaders who exemplify Girl Scout Laws and Promise-Persons who have taken dreams of yesterday and made them the realities of today-May 22, 1996; FIRST- LAURA WILLIS WALL YMCA Award for Dedicated Service to Youth 1991; AWARD FOR SERVICES TO CHILDREN AT HEAD START-Family Services, Inc. 1995; CHARLES C. ROSS Award for Outstanding Community Leadership 1997; COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD FOR IMPROVEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF LIFE Goler Memorial AME Zion Church-1998; MARY GARBER Appreciation Award for Support Given to the Mary Garber Classic 1999; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AWARD "DARE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD" for Dedication in the Struggle for Human and Civil Rights, Jan 2003; WOMAN WITH A MISSION-Mount Zion Baptist Church October 2003; PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, INC., EDUCATION AWARD for Commitment and Dedication to Educating the Youth of Our City, Leadership Award Jan.2003; DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD-The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc. Beta Lambda Chapter-May 2003; APPRECIATION PLaque FOR DEVOTED WORK-Old Hickory Council Boy Scouts of America; AVID GOLFER- Winner of 14 Golf Championships-(Years 1978 through 1995)

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I have served on the Board of Education for several years. It is my wish to continue to serve, so that I can help the School System provide the very best in education for children and teachers. The end result of this kind of service will be, satisfied parents for their children's education, as well as a stronger knowledgeable community.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I am for the best education we can find. Therefore, I could easily support an increase in taxes, and the cutting of wasteful spending. Any cuts in the school budget ought to be in those areas that do not impact directly the teaching of children.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **The roll of the School Board in teacher recruitment and retention should be a top priority for the School System. Without good teachers, we can not provide a proper education.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **I am always going to support bond referendums for school construction, if there is reasonable evidence of the needs.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **We as a School System should always be looking to be more efficient. This includes creating less waste, utilizing recycling as well as staying in tune with more energy saving technologies.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **In my opinion, the School Board should provide the School System with all the avail**

Geneva Brown

able resources to cater to those schools individually, based on said school's needs. The School System needs to look into the staffing of those failing schools, to be sure that they have the best qualified teachers. It is a known fact, that schools are no better than the teachers who teach, and principals who lead. It has been my contention for a number of years, that there needs to be another arm in the personnel department, who's focus should be to help monitor the effectiveness of the teaching process. I could elaborate on such a plan, if need be.

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **My answer and plan from question number six, could reduce these disparities in student achievement. The crux of the matter in the disparity of student achievement, is a direct result of what teachers do in their classrooms.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **Refer to the question above.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **I have never fully supported the current School Choice Plan. I believe in parents having some choice in where their children attend school. However, this plan has re-segregated many of our schools.**

Chenita Barber Johnson

Personal and family history: **I was born in 1960 and raised in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. I am married with two children; one is a graduate of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, the other is a current student.**

Educational Background: **I attended the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School through 9th grade where I attended Hanes High School. I graduated in West Virginia. I attended and graduated from Winston-Salem State University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science/Public Administration with a minor in History. I was on the Deans List and a member of the Pi Gamma Mu Honor Fraternity. I am a certified Paralegal with a concentration in Civil Litigation.**

Occupation Career: **I am an advertising consultant with an independent regional newspaper. I have substituted in the Winston-Salem / Forsyth County school system in various grades including kindergarten in math, science, art, and music. I was also a Diamond star sales associate at Hecht's Department Store.**

Community Involvement: **I am Public Relations Coordinator for my church; elected Minority Affairs Director of the 12th Congressional District; Officer in the North Winston Neighborhood Association; member of the Friends of the Odd Fellows Cemetery; Parent Liaison for the Cook Middle School PTA; Steering Committee member of Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods. Elected President of Hanes-Lowrance Precinct.**



Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I want to serve on the school board in order to ensure that every child that enters our schools is equally and properly prepared to enter the work force or university/college.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I think that all budget cuts must begin at the top.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **The school board should discuss and look at various plans concerning teacher retention. The board should also consider benefits packages; recruiting more male teachers especially minority contenders; and there must be a consultation with educators and councilors' locally, especially those in district 1 as there is an issue of 17 failing schools in this one district.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **Only if the community is completely involved in the discussion from the very beginning including access to the budget and selection process for general contractors. The referendum must include construction within the Urban Center.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **I think it would be great to involve the vocational students and students at Atkins high school.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **Create an environment of high expectations; become proactive with students through communication; create a stable environment by not shifting teachers and councilors; make sure every school has a PTA with a competent PTA coordinator; reduce suspensions.**

Chenita Barber Johnson

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Create an environment of high expectations; open communication; have competent**

councilors and advisors to provide equitable information to all students and stop targeting students for failure but target them to help with tutoring information and other relevant information. The board should also entertain the idea of using certified community tutorial pro

grams inside the school walls and during the school day. Use after school only if you provide transportation.

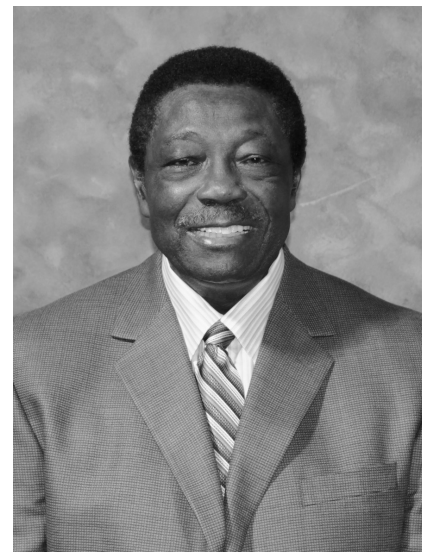
Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **The same as above; counselors must provide equitable and relevant information to all students. They must also be proactive and do not wait for a C student to slide to a D before help or information is given.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **No. This plan has created enclaves of racial and economic disparity in our attendant school zones.**

Vic Johnson

Personal and family history: **On February 28, 1935 I was born to Victor and Lucille Johnson. in Winston-Salem, NC. I am the oldest of seven children. Except for my three years of military duty, I have resided in Winton-Salem my entire 75 years. I am married to Dr. Constance H. Johnson, and we have two children, who attended the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Public Schools. Our son graduated from East Forsyth and our daughter graduated from Reynolds High School. Our son is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, and our daughter is an alumna of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.**

I am an alumnus of Winston-Salem State University with a BS degree in elementary education, and I have a MS degree in education from A&T State University as well as a principal's certificate in administration.



I served 31 years with the Winston/Forsyth County Schools and retired in 1993 as the assistant principal at Carver High School. During my tenure in the system, I also worked as a teacher, coach, and administrator at Paisley and North Forsyth High School. I came out of retirement and served for a brief period as interim principal at North Forsyth.

In the community I have served on many boards such as, the Food Bank, NAACP, Tanglewood Board, Heart Start, Winston-Salem Transit Authority, and W-S Urban League, (Board Chairman). I am currently a member of the Black Leadership Roundtable, Winston-Salem State University Board of Trustee, and the WS/SF County School Board. In 1997 I founded the Vic Johnson Junior Golf Clinic for youth in the Winston-Salem community and have run the 4 week program every summer. I am a Methodist by faith, but I regularly attend United Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church.

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **The number of in- school and out-of-school suspensions of Black and Hispanic males should be reduced. Last year, I piloted a Proactive Discipline Program at eight middle schools, and we successfully reduced the total number of suspensions for this group of students. I firmly believe in this project and would like to remain on the board to help expand the project throughout the system. Another reason that I wish to remain on the board is that I would like to retain jobs for teachers, assistants, bus monitors, and employees who have daily direct contact with students. I do recognize that cuts must be made; I think the cuts should be made in areas that do not have day-to-day contact with students.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **On February 10, 2010, twenty areas in the WS/FC School System were listed in the Journal, I would like to see appropriations for all twenty areas before I can rationally recommend where cuts should be made. Based on this careful examination of the budget, I will be in a better position to determine the severity of this situation.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **The school board's role should be to recruit and retain qualified teachers.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **Yes, I would support a bond referendum because of the increase in the student popula-**

Vic Johnson

tion and the need to update schools that are fifty and sixty years old. New technology must be incorporated in these schools, and the only way to finance this need is a bond referendum.

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" I believe that we need to contract with consultants who have experience building green concept schools. I don't think we know enough about green technology and how it works or have the finances to branch out into the field without contracting someone with expertise in the area.

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? We need to get away from labeling schools and students. There are fundamental skills that must be taught and mastered in every subject, i.e. reading, math, English, science, etc. Mastery of the basic skills supersedes any standardized tests that students are required to take. A school board should require that tool skills are taught and learned before students go to the next grade.

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? There will always be racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement because students do not start school at the same level of intellectual functioning. The system's primary responsibility should be to accurately assess where students are, collaborate with teachers, parents, other appropriate school personnel, and mentors to develop individual education plans (IEPs) for struggling students.

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? We have to ensure that we comparing apples to apples. For instance, some counties like Wake County have more professional parents and their children typically do better than children whose parents are not professionally trained. Another factor that contributes to student achievement or lack of achievement is babies who are having babies. Traditionally, offspring from very young mothers do not perform at the most competitive level. School systems could boost scores by having greater parental involvement, longer school years, and more tutors.

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? I support the current Choice Plan because it allows parents to make decisions regarding where they want to send their children. We are no longer busing Black children all over the county and placing them in segregated classes with lower level courses.

District 2

4 seats

A.L.(Buddy) Collins
Donald Dunn
Carla Boone Farmer
Jane Goins
Marilyn Parker
Jill Tackabery
Jim Toole
Stacey Walker McElveen

A. L. (Buddy) Collins

Personal and family history: **I am a native of Winston-Salem where my family has resided since the early 1800's. I am a self proclaimed "son of Ardmore", born on Ebert Street and raised on South Hawthorne Road. I attended public school in Winston-Salem at Moore Elementary, Dalton Junior High, Paisley High, and RJ Reynolds Senior High School ('75); married to Rene' Faulkner Collins in 1981 and have two children who are graduates of WS/FC schools, Whitney (RJR '04) and David (EFHS '08)**

Educational background: **RJ Reynolds High School 1975; North Carolina State University (1979) with a Bachelor of Arts in Economic and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics; Campbell University School of Law 1982, Juris Doctor**



Occupation Career. **Attorney at Law serving clients in the Kernersville area since 1982.**

Community Involvement: **Chairman of Kernersville YMCA Board of Managers, President of the Kernersville Chamber of Commerce, Member, YMCA NW North Carolina Metro Board, Member Board of Trustees Forsyth Technical Community College; business partner of Kernersville Elementary School; member of athletic booster clubs at RJR and EFHS; Co-founder of Athletes for Others, a non profit organization dedicated to training youth coaches.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I am the first of my family to be afforded the opportunity to graduate from college. My educational foundation was provided by public school teachers in this county. Serving on the Board of Education is one way I can repay all that has been given me through public education in this County. I offer experience both in the history of the system and the practical management of the school system that has been demonstrated over 12 years of service on the Board. I believe public education is one of the most important elements of our democracy.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I will protect the classroom. I believe that we live in a state and a country in which its citizens are taxed too much by a government that spends too much. I do not support a tax increase that is not authorized by the voters. County, State and Federal governments must align their spending priorities with the needs of public education.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **The Board of Education must recognize that our teachers are our most important employees. To be effective teachers must be adequately paid, highly trained and highly motivated. They must work for a principal who encourages them and supports them. When such an environment is created, a school district has little problem with retention and recruitment. Over my tenure on the board, our recruitment and retention of teachers has been very good.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **There is no bond referendum on the ballot for this fall. We expect to ask for a referendum in 2012 which I will support.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **I am not sure what "go green"**

A. L. (Buddy) Collins

means. But I support public buildings being constructed in a manner that is environmentally friendly provided that such can be done efficiently and within established budget criteria

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed. **Our schools substantially comply with NCLB. To the extent that this testing criteria has any meaning, our schools have complied successfully with the requirements of NCLB. I oppose federal intervention in public schools and believe NCLB is one of the worst pieces of legislation passed by Congress.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Disparities in groups in our school system are more pronounced when disaggregated on the basis of income. Children of poverty have many issues which can impede their success in school. Chiefly these children come to school in kindergarten less prepared. Their families tend to move more and they receive less support at home. Because children of poverty are often children of ethnic minorities, some ethnic minority groups are similarly grouped. These children must receive better pre school education, their mobility rates must be reduced, remediation should be offered early and often; unsuccessful student should be directed to some of our alternative programs. Most of all mentors must be assigned to high risk children early in their school careers.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **I don't care to deal with hypothetical questions.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **One of the most fundamental and important rights we have as parents is to meaningfully participate in the education of our children. Giving parents a choice in school assignment is one of the most important things we can do as a Board of Education to insure parental participation in the education of their children.**

Donald Dunn

Personal and family history: **Date/Place of Birth: January 29, 1961/ Monroe, LA; I live in Lewisville and have lived in Forsyth County for more than 20 years; I am married to Ann Wherry-Dunn and we have one daughter, Bria, who attends MtTabor High School**

Educational background: **I attended Highland Park High School in Topeka, Kansas. I am an alumnus of Winston-Salem State University. I graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.**

Occupation Career: **I am currently employed as a Business Consultant Wherry, Inc. – Director/Operator Early Education Centers 14 +years; Held Management and supervisory positions with First Union National Bank (Well Fargo), Branch Banking & Trust Bank and (Warner-Lambert) Pfizer, Inc.**



Community Involvement: **Education Volunteerism: District/Regional Teaching Fellow Screening Committee 6+ years; Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Scholarship Committee 5+ years; Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Teacher of Year Committee 3 years. Community Volunteerism: PTA: North Carolina PTA, Vice President, Legislative Activity Chairman: Common Core State Standard Committee; State Board Member 6 + years; Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Council President 2 years; Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Council Treasurer 4 years; Meadowlark Elementary School President 2 years. Forsyth Education Partnership: Board Member 6 years; Former President 1 year. North West Midget Pop Warner Football/Cheerleading: Football Commissioner Pfafftown Packers-President & League Representative 4 years. Forsyth County Youth Council: Board Member 4 years.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **Recently, I hosted several meetings with various citizens from all over Forsyth County to discuss the current state of our school system. The individuals that attended represented all facets of our county in regards to: income and education level, residency of the city and county, race/ethnic groups, age and (grand) children in the system. Some of the concerns and issues repeated from group to group were: the lack of confidence in the present board, dissatisfaction with the proposed staff reduction plan, lack of a positive relationship with different parts of the community and disappointment with students' performance and achievement with regards to graduation and drop rates and End of Grade test results. I have a notable record which entails not only community involvement and professional leadership, but I am knowledgeable of the education system as well. As a result of my leadership and volunteerism I feel that I can be a catalyst for change to help improve our education system. I will be the voice of the community for parents, students and teachers alike.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how you would respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **First and foremost I would not request a tax increase. The senior staff of the school system has recommended many different reductions that I disagree with. I would spread cuts across the entire system and not focus so heavily on the teachers, assistant and school principles. I would reduce spending in the current budget by: Advocating that the Governor and Legislature avoid further reduction; Encouraging County Commissioners to maintain the systems current funding level; Consolidating programs and schools which are underutilized or less effective; Reviewing and adjusting staffing level at schools & central office; Buying more services and products from local suppliers which in turn would stimulate our economy; Transport mail, supplies and equipment to school on a reduced weekly schedule to save in fuel, maintenance and staff cost; Eliminating local supplements for part-time, retired and rehired teachers; Maxi**

Donald Dunn

mizing technology and web based sites to provide information to the community which would provide a reduction in the publication postal and reproduction cost.

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **I believe that school board members should be involved in the recruiting and retaining of teachers. The board needs to be on the front end of the recruiting process. This will give the school board an opportunity to share the vision and mission of the local system. The Board needs to develop long term programs and activities which will improve the work environment for teachers.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **Yes, I would support a bond referendum for construction of new or renovation existing schools and technology purchase. Technology will continue to be essential. I would like the board to examine our current inventory of schools and their condition and remaining usefulness. Also, site placement will be critical for new schools. Middle schools construction should be emphasized. Several middle schools presently are overcapacity and out of date. We need to watch the total amount of the bond.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green"? **Some ideas to maximize the school system's "go green" program are: Replace older vehicles (buses, cars/trucks, lawnmowers) with more efficient models; Reduce and combine bus routes to conserve fuel usage; Update the current utility systems (water and energy conservation) for more cost effective systems; Utilize more environmentally friendly products; Continue to construct site with the most cost efficient method; Enlist staff and students in the effort to manage resources**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **The school system currently has two schools on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's labeled as "persistently lowest achieving schools". The school board should: Replace staff at low performing schools and establish policy that all low performing staff members will have to re-apply for employment; Change curriculum at the schools to suit the needs of the population and their families; Alter the operating hours of the school day and the building to meet the needs of the population in that community; Establish an "oversight" committee at each school that will deal with student and family issues; Involve more parents and community members in the policies, programs and activities of the school; Offer greater monetary incentives to teachers who choose to work in low performing schools**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **The Schools should do more to reduce the racial and ethnic disparities in the system which impact student's achievement by: Firstly, executing a district large review of the schools and their neighborhoods to ascertain the culture and the economic climate of the community. Through understanding of the cultures schools can better plan and implement programs that are geared to the needs of that community. Secondly, the system needs to acknowledge that there are disparities in provision of services and resources to schools and by communities.**

Thirdly, the system needs to evaluate and change all policies which are barriers to students' achievement which are in my opinion: school and staff assignment, busing, and instructional learning time. Finally, we need to closely examine the new school sites. The system needs to broaden the locations of schools to provide opportunities for all neighbors to share in the economic growth which school sites generate.

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student

Donald Dunn

achievement levels? **In many areas of student achievement we lag behind other urban NC schools districts and state and national averages. I believe we need to take steps now to turn around our student achievement. Some of the steps I propose are: Coordinate with community based organization and parents to generate more adult involvement in academic achievement; Design the middle schools to include seventh and eighth grades only. Shift the sixth back to elementary school. Both shifts will increase the focus on the curriculum.**

Develop and implement individual student growth plans that target their weaknesses. This plan will be a part of the student's permanent file and should be updated annually and adjusted as needed. Increase students' instructional time by one additional hour per day. This increase will equate to 30 extra days of instructional time per year. This additional time should be utilized to concentrate on student's individual development area in reading or math. Kindergarten and First grade teachers should remain with their class for the first two years Improve the rate of attendance of children in school. It is critical that students attend school daily.

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not?

No, I do not support the current School Choice Plan. The current plan has created schools that are viewed to be "low performance" strictly based on the school's location. There are many plans which the school system can adopt that will capitalize on the diverse population and resources of the community.

Carla Boone Farmer

Personal and family history: **Carla Farmer, a native of Virginia is married to Larry Farmer, a minister who is employed by the United States Parcel Service. They have lived in Winston-Salem for eight years. She is the mother of 2 children, Devon, a senior at Mt. Tabor High School and Asiah, a 6th grader at Flat Rock Middle School in Winston-Salem.**

Educational background: **Carla Farmer is a graduate of Lynchburg National Business College. She has also attended classes at Danville Community College and Forsyth Technical Community College.**

Occupation Career: **Carla Farmer has over 17 years of human resource experience and is currently employed by Chicago Title Insurance Company as Assistant Vice President Human Resource/Approved Attorney/Escrow.**

Community Involvement: **Carla's past volunteer service includes mentoring, volunteering with the Sherwood Forrest PTA, and participating in service projects that support the United Way of Forsyth County. Farmer is also active in her church serving as a Sunday school teacher and assisting in the church's Women's Ministry and Outreach programs. She currently serves as Secretary for the Flat Rock Middle School PTSA.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **As the parent of 2 children currently attending schools in the WSFC School System, I understand the importance of decisions made on the school board level and how these decisions effect children and parents like my children/family.**

Our board should be representative of the children/community that it serves. I am not only a voice for my children but I am a voice for all children, parents, and teachers. I have the skills, education, and background to be a solid voice for our community and will make it my goal to always keep the students of WSFC foremost in every decision that is made on the school board level.

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **First, the decision of where cuts should take place is never the decision of one person. This is the reason we act as a board. Ultimately the decisions of where cuts should be made will depend on the consensus of the board. Understanding this, it is imperative that our school board discern the needs of schools, teachers, and students. Our school board must also practice fiscal responsibility. An increase in taxes does not automatically equal better schools. A better correlation is how the board utilizes the funds on hand to maximize its resources to better serve students in Forsyth Co.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **Working with the Superintendent, it is in the interest of our schools that the school board develops strategies to recruit and hire the best teachers for our children. The board should also actively find ways to keep qualified teachers.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **If we want our children to succeed academically we need to be able to provide them with facilities that can encourage academic growth. If this means renovating existing schools or building new schools to help with overcrowded schools then I would support this bond referendum.**

Carla Boone Farmer

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **First, I have to commend our school system in its efforts to construct green schools. Flat Rock Middle School is a prefect example of what a green school should look like and I am proud to have a child that attends this beautiful school. There are also other FREE ways to build green initiative into existing schools such as adding recycling programs in the cafeterias; making recycle bins accessible for students to discard plastic bottles, cans, etc. Some recycle programs, such as Terracycle.com, pays schools back for donating recyclable items in bulk.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **One idea would be to help schools identify why they are failing. There are multiple reasons why some schools fail and some schools thrive. Once issues have been identified, a task force that involves staff/students/parents of the schools could be formed to address these issues and collectively find ways to combat these issues.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **The System should work to eliminate, not reduce, racial and ethnic disparities. In an effort to eliminate all disparities in student achievement the system need to ensure all students, schools, teachers and parents have equal educational experiences and opportunities.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **Explore new ways to ensure that all children are properly educated in their early years by benchmarking school systems that have had similar issues. Also, continue to work with other entities in the community that are currently helping to increase the high school graduation rate.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **Yes. School Choice simply means giving parents/guardians the opportunity to select the schools that they feel are right for their children. There should be choice in "public" schools were "public" dollars are used to educate all children.**

Jane Goins

Personal and family history: **Born November 4, 1944 , Mt. Airy, (Surry County), NC; Resident of Forsyth County 31 years—same neighborhood, 31 years; Married 43 years to Tony Goins; Children-- Lori Clark, Claudia Banner, Yancey Goins, all graduates of Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools; Four grandchildren, oldest grandchild, Cameron Clark, currently in KG, Southwest; Elementary School . Three younger grandchildren, ages 3, 2, 1 years.**

Educational background: **North Surry High School , Mt Airy, NC; Appalachian State University; BS in Spanish and Social Studies; Post graduate at ASU; Dean's List; Sigma Delta Phi, Pi Gamma Mu (academic societies in both major fields); Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities; Editor, The Rhododendron**



Occupation Career: **Various teaching positions over 40 years as motherhood became my primary career. Currently, accredited ACBL instructor for Bridge, Gold Life Master, teaching Bridge classes at various locations in the city/county.**

Community Involvement: **PTA President; School PTA Volunteer of the Year; School volunteer—25 years; Board Member, Christian Women's Club; Church nursery director, teacher, youth committee; Member WSFCS Board of Education, 25 years; WSFCS Board Vice Chair; All State Board Member, NCSBA, 2006**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **My reasons for running for a seat on the Board of Education have remained steadfast throughout the past 25 years. I want to know that the decisions made by the local board are in the best interest of ALL our children. I listen carefully, do my homework and then vote with the intellect and heart of a mother/educator.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **Budget reduction should be done without any cuts to the classroom nor should we cut teacher compensation. I remain convinced that performance based pay should be added for exemplary teachers. No more taxes!**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **Our efforts as a Board should be to continue to maintain our good reputation as a Board willing to listen to staff input in our decision-making process.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **The current economic climate is not right for asking our citizens to support an additional bond.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **I will continue to support the measures that we have already initiated--recycling and energy efficiency when possible in our new construction projects. Eliminate paper via computer communications as much as possible.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **Our school system already has strategies in place which include incentives to attract experienced teachers, reduced class sizes, mentoring AND spending more dollars per student.**

Jane Goins

Parental support is the single most common factor that contributes to student success. Our Board should place more emphasis on curriculum that teaches our current students how to become responsible parents for the future. The foundation for learning begins in the home in the years before school. Committed parents/guardians must help teachers/staff by assuming early responsibility for that foundation.

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Again, as a Board, we can provide curriculum that emphasizes parenting skills that prepare students to become responsible parents in the future. They will then prepare their children for school readiness. The home environment must support the need for an education and teach children to respect the role of the classroom teacher in that endeavor.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **All students can improve—can learn—with support from families who support the schools. We must work together with families to emphasize the importance of education/job preparedness and good citizenship.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **Yes, I have always supported school choice for families. Parents are more likely to be involved in a school that they have chosen for their child.**

Marilyn Parker

Personal & Family History: Marilyn Parker was born in Maryville , TN, 8/31/1956. She moved to Winston Salem NC in 1979 where she married Dr R Lamar Parker. She is a mother of 4 children who all attended and graduated from the Winston Salem Forsyth County public school system.

Educational Background: Marilyn graduated cum laude at Tennessee Tech University with a BS in Early Childhood and Elementary Education after graduating from Maryville High School, in Maryville TN. She has been honored by nominations to Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society and Mortar Board (leadership honor) while at Tennessee Tech University. While teaching in the NC public school system she obtained her Master's in Education and Reading at UNC-G.



Occupation Career: After teaching in the public school system as a elementary school teacher, Marilyn became director of Ardmore Through the Week School and has held this position for the last 24 years.

Community Involvement: Marilyn is currently serving her 3rd term on the WSFC School Board. She is now in her 3rd year serving on the NC School Boards Association, Board of Directors. She is serving her 4th year as Chairperson of the WSFC School Board Finance Committee. She is a member of the WSFC School Board Curriculum Committee. She has served as a PTA President 2 times at the elementary and middle school level. She is currently serving on the steering committee with the YMCA's Pioneering Healthy Communities Grant. She is a weekly volunteer at Cook Elementary School tutoring a kindergarten child. Marilyn is an active member of Reynolda Rotary and Ardmore United Methodist Church.

Issues Oriented Questions

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **With my passion for education, I feel a person with a professional educational background and school board experience is critical at this crucial time in our state and county.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **My first priority is the protection of the classroom, which includes; programs, optimal class size, classroom teachers and teacher support. When cuts are made they should effect the system equally, IE not isolating a specific area or department such as Fine Arts. Trimming areas where materials or programs that could be delivered internally by local staff should be considered as potential cost saving approaches. During these economic times a tax increase is difficult, looking for other sources of money would be my choice before asking for a tax increase.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **The school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention I believe should be a priority. Every effort should be made to keep quality educators in the classroom and as administrators. Retention can be enhanced through supplements as well as not overloading educators with new programs or unnecessary paperwork.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or Why not? **Yes, I would support a bond referendum because the "lottery funds" do not meet the demands needed for new school construction and renovations. There has been a significant amount of work accomplished in this area but we are still faced with overcrowding and out**

Marilyn Parker

dated facilities.

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green"? **We should explore ways to conserve energy and natural resources which can help to protect our environment. Additionally the use of affordable sustainable construction material should be considered.**

In the Winston Salem Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **The schools considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation should continue to have lower class size enabling teachers to work with children in small groups according to their abilities. Adding time to the current school day or increasing the number of school days per year are additional methods that could potentially help underperforming school. The communities continued involvement through volunteers, tutors, and mentors is needed to develop individual enrichment and relationships with a caring adult.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Currently the System is providing mandatory and programmatic assistance. Continued support should be provided along with monitoring to assure that community involvement continues in the schools of needs.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **Presently our achievement levels ranks in the middle of urban districts. Continuous attention should be given to school improvement through growth models and value added scores. Schools not showing growth should be in a school improvement plan. Growth at all levels both proficient and non proficient is important. School improvement plans should be required for schools not showing growth.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or Why Not? **I support the current school choice plan. I believe that parents should have the opportunity to research, visit and choose where their children attend school. Choice is offered through the zone choice program and various magnet school opportunities. I believe families should make the school choice for their child and not the system.**

Jill Tackabery

Personal and family history: **I was born in Philadelphia, PA on April 6, 1951. We moved to Albemarle, NC when I was 13 and I moved to Winston-Salem in 1974. My husband of 31 years, Neal Tackabery, an attorney, and I have 3 children who attended WS/FC public schools from Kindergarten through graduation. They attended or are attending UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State.**

Educational background: **I attended Albemarle Senior High School, graduating in 1969. My brother, sister and I were the first in our family to go to and graduate from college. I attended UNC-G, graduating in 1973 with a B.A. in English. I did student teaching at Pinecrest High School in Southern Pines, NC.**

Occupation Career: **I worked at the Medical Center (BGSM/NCBH) when I first moved to town, working in the Director's Office. I then joined Ampersand, Inc., a management consulting and fund raising company. My major client was the North Carolina School of the Arts. I was fortunate to be able to be a stay-at-home Mom when our children were growing up. I've also done free-lance writing and teaching manners to pre-schoolers. My School Board work is now my "full-time" job.**

Community Involvement: **I regularly volunteered at Sherwood Forest Elementary, Cook and Jefferson Middle Schools, and Mt. Tabor High School. Neal and I served as Co- Presidents of the Cook Middle School PTA and I was on the PTA Boards of both Jefferson and Mt. Tabor. I served on the Forsyth County PTA Council and Equity Committee. I worked to secure community support for the past three successful School Bond referendums. I received the 1998 Governor's Volunteer award for Education and Literacy. I currently serve on the Boards of Forsyth Education Partnership and Forsyth County Communities in Schools. I've served on several North Carolina Teaching Fellow Selection committees. I currently serve on the School Board's Curriculum and Building and Grounds Committees and have served on numerous Principal Selection Committees and Teacher of the Year Selection Committees. I regularly attend the Teacher Advisory Committee and the Parent Advisory Committee, as well as numerous community meetings focused on education. I started and continue to lead the Community Advisory Committee.**



Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I still have a strong belief that public education is the answer to so many of our local issues – job creation, business recruitment, increasing the local tax base, helping to create informed and caring citizens who will help solve social problems facing us. I bring 8 years of experience and knowledge of our school system's programs, people and priorities. With the dire economic situation that this School Board will face this year and next, I think my experience will be invaluable in helping to keep us moving forward with a fiscally responsible plan.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I can't say at this time exactly where I would make cuts. I can only promise to review budget information, and make decisions based upon the principle of keeping the cuts as far away from the classroom as possible.**

I would support an increase in the "sin taxes" – perhaps raising the price of a can of beer by 5 cents and a 1 cent per ounce tax on soft drinks, while insisting on a 5 year sunset provision for this tax.

Jill Tackabery

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **We should create a safe environment that fosters the highest level of teacher and student performance and provide both financial and professional support so that teachers want to come teach in Forsyth County.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **In our current economic situation, I would be unlikely to support a bond referendum this year.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **We will continue our efforts to make our schools environmentally efficient as costs will allow. We've included many "green ideas" in our new construction – roof gardens, using environmentally friendly materials, etc. (Though some of our new schools might qualify for the official designation of "green", we have not applied for that designation because of the cost of applying.) Board members are working on the idea of school/community gardens and are working on recycling efforts at our schools.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **The new federal model, Race to the Top, uses a growth model rather than the proficiency model of NCLB, so many of our schools deemed "failing" under NCLB may be labeled differently under RTTT. However, we want all of our schools to offer each and every child the opportunity to excel educationally. I fully support offering schools the support – both financial and professional – to help them achieve success. The development of Professional Learning Communities has been a great addition to our schools, allowing teachers and staff to discuss educational concerns and successful solutions within their own school building.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **We must continue to financially and professionally support the programs at our Economically Disadvantaged schools. We must also become more involved with our community to develop ways of increasing family engagement and Kindergarten readiness for economically disadvantaged children.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **No matter where we stand with regard to other urban school districts, it's incumbent upon School Board members to engage more parents and community members in the process of improving student achievement, provide effective student remediation by combining technology with teacher instruction, support instructional assistance for teachers and students needing help and base this assistance on needs revealed by appropriate data, and continue to develop and support Professional Learning Communities that provide teachers with ideas and input from their fellow teachers.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **Absolutely. This plan gives parents the opportunity to choose an elementary school from 6 choices in their zone and a middle school from 3 choices in their zone. We provide transportation to the school that they've chosen. Parents have all kinds of reasons for choosing the right school for their child – location (close to home), theme of the school, child care issues, diversity. I trust parents to make the best school choice for their child.**

(I must also say that in my eight years on the Board, I don't think that I have ever had a parent tell me that they did not like our school assignment plan.)

Jim Toole

Personal and family history: **I was born and raised in Winston – Salem and have lived here some 2/3 of my 47 years. I am married to Christine Toole and have three beautiful sons ages 8 – 11, all of whom currently attend Sherwood Forest Elementary. The oldest will be attending the Paisley International Baccalaureate program in the fall.**

Educational background: **I am a graduate of R. J. Reynolds High School and Wake Forest University and hold a Bachelors in Mathematics. My professional designations include Fellow in the Society of Actuaries and Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst.**

Occupation Career: **I am the Managing Director of the Winston Salem office of MBA Actuaries, a mid-sized consulting firm supporting insurance companies, self-insured plans, regulators and professional services firms. Actuaries help their clients evaluate, manage and capitalize on the economic consequences of risk. I lived as an ex-pat in Mexico City for 3 years and am fluent in Spanish.**



Community Involvement: **Board of Directors, Society of Actuaries; Director, Downtown Rotary Club; Board chair, Children's Theater of Winston Salem; Ex-officio chair, Forsyth County Health Equity Action Team; Coach of over a dozen youth basketball, baseball, football and soccer teams; Organized and/ or volunteered for numerous arts, sustainability and public health projects/events**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **Winston-Salem is both my history and my future. It's the place I love and have worked tirelessly to make a better place to live. I'm running for school board because education lays the foundation for our future, both for our children and for the county. We are at a critical juncture economically, and the decisions we make in the years ahead will have significant implications down the road. I am experienced, qualified and motivated to make a real difference, for my children and for yours.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **All ideas to save money from staff should be considered and rewarded. This should be part of a continuous improvement process, not a special process due to the financial crisis.**

As a small business owner, I understand the importance of being fiscally prudent. As an actuary, I'm trained to focus on long term outcomes rather than short term fixes. These are skills which will be essential to helping make tough decisions about a school budget of over \$450 million during a period of significant budget cuts. However, I do not believe in being penny wise and pound foolish. I would advocate for an increase in taxes if I felt the long term benefits clearly outweighed the short term costs. Our children deserve no less.

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **Recruiting qualified teachers and improving retention is a critical part of the strategic vision for the school system. While we need to be creative in looking for ways to add new candidates to the pool (for example, the Teach for America program), we need to develop effective ways to evaluate our recruitment efforts. Ultimately, the board establishes policy and the superintendent is responsible for the nuts and bolts of administering the recruitment & retention policy.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and reno-
Jim Toole

vation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **Maintenance is an important and often neglected component of the operational budget. The UNC system now faces difficult financial challenges with respect to long deferred maintenance. Run down schools do not always equate to low functioning schools, but there is a corollary between the "broken windows" theory of neighborhood safety and the contribution of a safe, secure and caring school climate to kid's achievement. While a bond referendum might be a difficult sell in today's economic environment, it is also an opportune time to negotiate good contracts and get people to work.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **Sustainability is an important value to teach to students. The entire system should participate in waste stream management and recycling programs that are easy for students to see and participate in. New construction should be built with LEED standards, and existing sites should have top to bottom energy audits with results incorporated into their maintenance programs. Transportation is one of the largest operational costs and often difficult to budget. Safe walking routes should continue to be developed and encouraged.**

In addition to being good for the environment, green projects can clearly demonstrate long term financial savings. Savings could be used to fund areas which do not demonstrate a return but are a valuable investment in our kids, such as providing healthy school lunches.

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **Education is a process, not a product, and our children are more than test scores. There are both qualitative and quantitative measures of school success which are not captured in standardized testing. The building blocks of educational success include: Great teachers and administration; Engaged parents and community (including the business community); and Safe schools that provide an atmosphere that supports student learning.**

While No Child Left Behind provides valuable information and is an important indicator, it should not be seen as the ultimate yardstick for the performance of our schools.

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **There are clear fault lines in our community. The lines of race and ethnicity often follow socio-economic disparities, which are reflected in student achievement. The building blocks of educational success are the same as mentioned previously: Great teachers and administration; Engaged parents and community (including the business community); and Safe schools that provide an atmosphere that supports student learning.**

Identifying all the pieces and empowering them to work together in our urban schools is the real challenge facing our system.

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **I believe in learning from the experiences of other systems and adapting best practices as appropriate. If other urban counties are getting better results than we are, can we determine what the drivers are? Are they getting the results we want spending more or less money per student? How are the funds allocated?**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **It is my understanding School Choice is, at least in part, a response to judicial decisions prohibiting school assignments based on race. While it is not perfect, many aspects are working well. I would support an evolutionary approach to addressing concerns with School Choice, and as part of an ongoing review process I would encourage: Developing strong magnet schools in the center to attract diverse students; Locating new facilities to serve the needs of all residents; and Reviewing zones and residential areas in conjunction with the census.**

Stacey Walker McElveen

Personal and family history: **I am a life long resident of Forsyth County and live in Winston-Salem. I'm an army wife with three children. My oldest two children attend Bolton Elementary.**

Educational background: **I graduated from North Forsyth High School in 1995 and Forsyth Technical Community College in 2004. I will graduate from Ashford University on May 2, 2011 with a degree in Early Childhood Administration. I graduated with Honors from Forsyth Technical Community College and am on the Dean's list with Ashford University.**



Occupation Career: **I am a Center Director of A Child's World Learning Center. I have been in the education field for 14 years.**

Community Involvement: **Serve on the Board of Directors for the Special Children's School; Serve on the Early Education Committee for Smart Start; Serve on the ECHO Council; Involved with Girl/Boy Scouts; Mayor's Council for Person with Disabilities; Involved with Family Support Network; Forsyth Technical Community College Early Childhood Advisory Committee; North Carolina Community College System's Industry Advisory Committee; Forsyth Technical Community College Cooperative Education Mentor; Founded Kids March for Quality Care Parade; Founded Play to Learn**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I understand that parents in our community are concerned over the quality of their child's education, school choice plans, school violence, budget proposals, graduation rates, teacher/child ratio, and much more. I share your concerns. More concerning are the children who do not have a parent who is involved in their education. We must find a way to get parents involved because I believe all children should have the same opportunities.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I would not support increasing class sizes or teacher/student ratios. I would like to see the school system use more online resources and more hands on activities for learning instead of using so much paper. I would also support Board members volunteering their time instead of receiving monetary compensation for their services. I would support a tax increase to sustain public education as long as property owners are made available information as to how we are going to be good stewards of their money.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **The School Board is responsible for creating the vision and policies of teacher recruitment and retention and holds the Superintendent responsible for ensuring the vision is met and maintained.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **I would not support a bond referendum in conjunction with an increase in property taxes. I would like to see a citizens review committee made if there was a bond referendum.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **I would like to see an increase in recycling efforts at local schools.**

Cafeteria: **Use recycled paper products, start with napkins; Reduce packaging, no individual**

Stacey Walker McElveen

condiment packages; Use recyclable or at least biodegradable serving dishes; See how they recycle their oil from the fryer; Get them to use it for Biodiesel; If they have to use plastic, try to find one that can be recycled

Office/Admin: Use recycled paper as much as possible; Print on both sides; Turn off all computers, printers lights etc. in the evening.

Bathrooms/locker rooms: Use recycled toilet paper, paper towels and seat covers; Install low flow adapters on all sinks; Use electric hand dryers; If the gym has a washing machine use eco-friendly laundry soap

Overall campus: Install motion sensors in class rooms so the lights go off when empty; Increase paper recycling; Recycle all ink cartridges

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **The school board is responsible for ensuring that all children succeed. If a school is not meeting progress then teachers need to look at differentiating instruction, test taking methods, etc. Students should be offered tutoring and staff should be offered staff development.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **I believe that diversity should be celebrated and that all children deserve a quality education regardless of their skin color or what school they attend. Our work force should be diverse and teachers/administrators/school board members should build trusting relationships with families, students, and members of the community.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **I believe that teachers should differentiate their instruction and should be educated about various learning styles. Parents should also be educated on the curriculum, grade expectations, and be provided with specific information as to ways they can help their children succeed. I think we should allocate funding with appropriate formulas and use parents and the community to advocate to federal and state governments. We should collaborate with community organizations and parents because I'm a firm believe in the age old saying that it takes a village.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **I do support it with some modifications. I think the important factor is that we celebrate diversity and ensure that all children have the same opportunities and those opportunities be relevant to the culture of the child and family.**

At Large

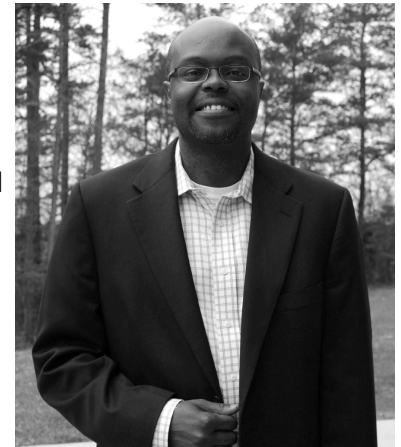
3 seats

Robert Lee Barr, Jr.
Lori Goins Clark
Donny C. Lambeth
Jeannie A. Metcalf
Elisabeth Motsinger
Nancy P. Sherrill

Robert Lee Barr, Jr.

Personal and family history: **Robert Barr was born and raised in Forsyth County. He is married to Marilyn Barr who has 20 years of teaching experience. They have two children in Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools. Both children attend Southwest Elementary; one will be going to Meadowlark Middle next year as a 6th grader.**

Educational background: **Robert Barr graduated from Parkland High School, attended Winston-Salem State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Intermediate Education, and later earned a Master in Education from Wake Forest University. Robert Barr taught in the school system for 14 years. He taught the following grades: 3,4,6,7 and served as a curriculum coordinator. At Paisley and Kernersville Middle, he was elected teacher of the year and was one of the nine finalists for Forsyth County Teacher of the Year.**



Occupation Career: **Robert Barr currently serves as an assistant pastor at Agape Faith Church in Clemmons North Carolina. He has been in that position for eight years. He currently oversees member services and counseling ministries.**

Community Involvement: **Robert Barr has help manage for several years one of the local food pantries in Forsyth County as well as organized teams to feed 500 families turkey dinners with all the trimming during Thanksgiving. The effort consisted of creating teams to oversee all aspects of the community service.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I was raised in a socio-economically disadvantaged area, but due to mentors and positive role models in the school system I was able to obtain a measure of success. I hold a degree in Intermediate Education from Winston-Salem State University and a Master's Degree from Wake Forest. I would like to see all children be prepared for the future whether they are economically classified as middle class, disadvantaged, or affluent. I desire to see all the children do well and be prepared to serve our community.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how you would respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I don't believe that such decisions are made by one individual. For these decisions I would like to invite the stakeholders in the community (teachers, parents, business men and women, and administrators) to sit around the table to discuss issues such as these and make the decisions that would benefit the community. A team that represents the community at large would need to discuss lobbying our state senators, furloughs, and the development of fair criteria that would help determine which personnel should be retained as we weather through this crisis.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **In the light of tight budgets, the board should go to leaders in the community and solicit incentives that would attract new teachers to the area, match teachers to schools that fit their strengths, and build around those teachers long term support teams to help make sure that retain those who are helping our kids do well.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **If the bond referendum benefits students, parents, and teachers, then yes I would support it.**

Robert Lee Barr, Jr.

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **First, get buy-in from our parents, teachers, students, and administration by sharing the benefits of "going green". Next, begin to implement in small bite sizes programs that don't cost a lot of money and let the community see the results and then move from there.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **Find schools that were similar in demographics and scores, but have made significant progress. Gather important information from these schools as to how they have become successful and apply strategies and processes that would fit our local schools. More than likely a common theme that would be seen from these turn-around schools would be an increase of parental involvement in their child's learning experience.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Increase parental awareness and involvement in the educational process. Build around the students and parents a team of educational mentors/coaches that would create specialized programs to help both parents and students better understand the educational process. For the students the program could consist of specialize tutoring and for the parents programs that help the parents understand the gaps their child maybe experiencing and what they can do to make their child more successful. I propose that the mentoring program would need to begin in kindergarten and continue.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **Show parents how they can become more involved in the educational process. Set up parent forums led by other parents, teachers, and administrators explaining how they can support the classroom learning environment which will in turn have an impact on student achievement levels and will affect the overall System. Also be open to what is working well in other counties and states with similar demographics and apply strategies that are applicable.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **This is a complex issue. Most parents would like for their children to go to schools that are closest to them, so they can easily become engaged and involved in their child's education. I remember the long bus ride from Patterson Avenue to Lewisville Elementary. My mother didn't have the transportation to go to Lewisville for parent/teacher conferences. However, when it appears that we have entire zones that have low scores, then it is the board's role to look at the current plan that we have in place and design a program that would hopefully allow parents to send their kids to the school closest to their home, but at the same time make sure schools that are struggling are getting all the resources they need.**

Lori Goins Clark

Personal and family history: **I was born in Statesville, but have lived here in Forsyth Co./Triad area since age 9. I am married and my husband and I have one child who attends Southwest Elementary.**

Educational background: **I attended West Forsyth High School (numerous academic and athletic honors) in Clemmons and then attended UNC-Chapel Hill and studied Music (B.A.) and Spanish. Honors (academic and other) included Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, Dean's List, Opera Theatre Award, Outstanding College Students of America, and Miss North Carolina Scholarship Program Preliminary Winner & Top Five Finalist. I was also named an Outstanding Volunteer for both Durham & Forsyth Counties.**



Occupation Career: **My professional career consists mainly of sales experience, in telecommunications, computers and technology solutions (hardware, software and services solutions). While in technology solutions sales, I worked with most of the NC school systems, their Finance Officer or IT Directors and assisted them with various information technology solutions. Those experiences gave me understanding of how the school budget processes work.**

Community Involvement: **I have long been a proponent of volunteer work. It began when I was school age (Easter Seals, Girls Service Club, Reading is Fundamental), continued through college (Campus Y, tutoring a juvenile offender, working with at-risk students) and remains a significant part of my life today. My husband and I are high school youth choir sponsors in our church, and I am a classroom and parent volunteer and PTA Vice-President (upcoming year) at Southwest Elementary School. In addition, we are heavily involved in the Worship Ministry at Calvary Baptist and in church missions. We are former Bible Fellowship Class Assistant Teachers, and I have been involved in Women's Ministry (various capacities) there as well. I currently serve part-time on the ChickFila Peacehaven Rd. Marketing Team and as a Substitute Teacher in the WSFC Schools.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I want to be very involved in my child's education. Public service on the school board seems like a logical follow-on to a life of volunteer work in a time when the public educational system is under fire from many directions. In fact, I would like to see others in my age group step out into public service. I see the school board as a way to be an advocate for my child and for all children in the system. I promise to use my practical mom-sense and technology/ arts background to give insight into those board discussions and to protect the foundation of our educational curriculum. Furthermore, the community should know that I am a fiscal and social conservative and I will vote with conscience, heart, gut and principle as I consider board issues.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how you would respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would advocate you for an increase in any taxes to support public education? Though historically Forsyth County has always been supportive in voting yes to needed funds for educational improvements (new schools, renovations, etc.), this year is not the year to ask for additional monies from the community. I would also fight to protect the jobs of our strong teachers first and then look item-by-item at the budget to find wasteful areas to reduce cost. I am a "give me the facts/figures" type of person, and I would apply that mentality in dealing with budget issues.**

Lori Goins Clark

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **Strong teachers will come to our area if they see in our system an administration that values strong teachers, pays well and protects their creativity and their classrooms. They will also come if they see a community that values and respects teachers and sees and promotes parental involvement and responsibility (what teachers say is a critical element to overall educational success). When teachers consider teaching here, the Board should promote those values and illustrate them (provide facts and figures).**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **See answer number 2.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **Four common-sense answers would be: 1) less paper (more electronic communication), 2) conservation tactics like solar energy in all new construction, 3) technology consolidations whenever possible and 4) heating and cooling assessments in all heavy technology equipment areas in the schools.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **This is too big a question to address in 2-3 sentences, but in short....it looks like (with NCLB) giving individual states the ability to set their own standards has allowed some to set the "proficient" standard too low, so likely it needs to be a state-led collective effort to set very high standards that measure all students in all states against certain parameters in all subjects. Our curriculum standards probably need to be raised. There should also be, especially in the schools termed "failing," a measure of a student's individual achievement (consider an individual's year-to-year progress).**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Teachers and students themselves (recent article in the W-S Journal on "societal ills") say that the key to student success is parental and family involvement, so our community (churches, businesses and individuals) and our Board should always think of creative ways to increase parent involvement where it is low and seek to increase mentor-type programs, business/vocational training-for-student programs, one-on-one tutor or listener-type programsWe fill in the gaps today - but we should teach tomorrow's generation differently (incorporate personal responsibility ideas like character ed. into the curriculum at Kindergarten level). If we teach young children to be responsible (what does that mean?) and make good decisions (what we do impacts us and others around us), we will raise them to be responsible and involved citizens, parents, workers, and members of the community Those ideas directly impact racial and ethnic disparities. Too, we ought to measure individual progress – not just test scores.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **See above answers on NCLB, parental involvement and raising curriculum standards (raise the expectation and children will meet it) – but also measure them individually.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **I do support the current school choice plan. Parents have the right to place their children in the school of their choice – in-zone or out. More than 90% of parents and families in Forsyth Co. receive their first (school) choice. When parents are given choices, they are more involved and the students and teachers benefit!**

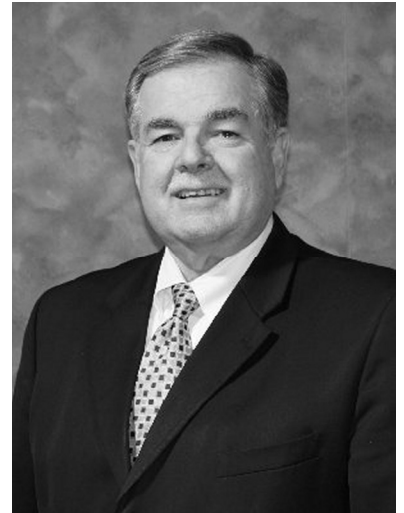
Donny C. Lambeth

Personal and family history: **Donny C. Lambeth, DOB: 6/24/50; lifelong resident of Forsyth County; educated in the WSFC school system; married to Pamela G. Lambeth for 37 years; 4 adult children all educated in our school system at Griffith, Philo/Clemmons and Parkland**

Educational background: **Parkland HS '68; HPU '72 BS Degree; WFU MBA '94; Honors – All-State School Board; Health Care Hero Award**

Occupation Career. **RJ Reynolds summer worker 1969-1971, NC Baptist Hospital 38 years, since 1972 in Finance and Administration**

Community Involvement. **Elected 1994 Board of Education serving as Chairman 1994-2010. Member Boards: HPU Board of Visitors, Piedmont Club, Hospice and Palliative CareCenter, Hawthorne Inn, Med-Cost, Davie and Lexington Hospitals. PTA Co-President, PTA Council Executive Committee-Treasurer, Chairman of region's American Heart and Stroke Walk, United Way Executive Board, Citizen's Budget Review Board City of W/S, Zoning Board of Adjustment F/C, Forsyth Technical Community College.**



Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I continue to be supportive of public education and with to continue to work to elevate this district to the best in the region/nation. Students today are our future and we must prepare them as our future leaders.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I have lived this crisis last few years and we start by involving all stakeholders with decision-making to help us place priority on our funding needs and what to reduce. We have organized efforts to convince state and local counties to provide us the resources we need. I believe the current relationship with the county needs to change. I have advocated a funding formula as the next step.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **A very high priority to attract and retain the best we must pay a competitive salary and continue to improve working conditions.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **Any bond request will be delayed. We are not ready to make a request and the economy is still impacting lives. Not a good year.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **Evaluate what has been successful in other green schools. Need strong recycling program, energy efficient buildings, etc.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **Build on programs to help teachers and parents understand NCLB.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Continue to improve class ratio with more one-on-one support, provide alternate programs that help them master the academic skills. Support Chamber programs around mentorships, tutoring, etc.**

Donny C. Lambeth

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **No reason to focus on what might happen; let's focus on continuous improvements.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **Yes, parents should have choices and our county is a model for other districts that are copying us.**

Jeannie A. Metcalf

Personal and family history: **I was born and raised in Cherryville, NC. I've lived in Forsyth County since 1976 except for 2 years when we lived in Wilmington while my husband did his internal medicine residency. My husband Doug and I have been married 39 years. We have four daughters, all of whom graduated from Mt. Tabor High School and UNC-Chapel Hill.**

Educational background: **I graduated from Cherryville High School and was the first female from my little town to be accepted to UNC Chapel Hill. After the first year I married my husband and completed my second year while he completed his final year. He then went to Medical School at Wake Forest and I had to go to work to put him through school. We started having kids at the end of his training and I became a stay-at-home mom which gave me the time to really get involved in my kids' education. I never went back to finish my degree. Guess you could say I am a college dropout.**



Occupation Career: **I worked as a pharmacy tech at Forsyth Hospital to put my husband through medical school. I was his medical office manager from 1991 until 1994 when I was first elected to the school board and spent so much time doing things associated with that position that I had to "retire" from that job. Working as a school board member is my full-time job.**

Community Involvement: **I have served on the WS/FC Board of Education for 16 years. I served on the PTA's at all the schools my kids attended. I served on the executive boards at Sherwood Forest and Mt. Tabor. Several years throughout the 80's I served on the executive county PTA board but don't remember the exact years. I served on the board of the Peace Haven Neighborhood association throughout the mid 80's to mid 90's serving as president in 1994. Served those same years on the board of the Winston-Salem Associated Swim Clubs, holding several offices during those years. I was appointed by Harold Brubaker to be a commissioner of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows in 1996 and served for 4 years.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I serve to represent the concerns of parents in our school system. Other reasons include supporting our employees, especially our teachers, in any way possible, to foster cooperation between all the entities that serve and are served by our school system, to be fiscally responsible with the taxpayers dollars. All of the reasons serve to achieve my utmost goal which is providing a fair and equitable quality 21st century education to all of our students that will prepare them all to graduate to go on to further academic endeavors or to enter the workforce.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **I think we need to protect the classroom as much as possible. Right now we are trimming the edges of our budget until we know what the state will do next year. We are proactively identifying large cuts for next year if we have to. With the economic situation now face, and the high jobless rate, I don't believe this is the time to be raising taxes. I think all state and county departments, ourselves included, should continue to find ways to cut spending in order to save money that could then be used to, as I stated before, protect the classroom.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **School boards should request updates on recruitment practices and monitor outcomes. We have learned that, along with salary, the main issue in teacher retention is the school climate. We should continue to**

Jeannie Metcalf

pay close attention to the outcomes of the Governor's Workforce Climate Survey that is conducted every two years and to our own internal climate survey taken in the alternate years. We must then use that information to help those principals, who basically control the climate, who lead schools that continue to perform poorly on the survey to correct their leadership deficiencies or to be looking for another job.

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **No. As I stated before, these are dire economic times, not the right climate for an initiative of this type.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **We have three "green" roofs planned on upcoming projects, plus we incorporate many energy saving technologies into all of our new construction projects. We integrate "green" instruction into all Career and Technical Education courses where appropriate. We continue to explore green options. Unfortunately, many green alternatives to traditional building practices are extremely expensive and until those costs come down or we have a lot more money, we will have to forgo those initiatives for the time being.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **It appears the reauthorization legislation will no longer have this designation, which is unfair and the term misused. We will continue to put extra money in these schools, provide remediation, try new teaching initiatives. The bigger problems of mobility and parental involvement are the biggest cause of poor test scores. We can't force people not to move and we are actively engaging parents in these schools to encourage their involvement with their children's education, with curriculum nights, ESL classes, GED classes, technology classes and meals, just to name a few.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **The second half of the preceding answer applies here as well. Plus additional tutoring opportunities after school and during the summer, additional teacher training, and more parental involvement will reduce racial disparities.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **Since there are no comparisons to other states and the nation except for SAT scores, which are invalid comparisons because of which tests their students take and which students take the test, the question is misleading. In NC there are MANY comparisons and we are not below all urban districts - we are almost always above Durham, sometimes above Guilford and Charlotte but rarely above Wake. Plus you have to look at the demographics of each district. As for boosting achievement levels, we are doing all we can within our budgetary restraints to use proven educational methods to increase learning. We have hard working teachers in classrooms every day doing all they can to help all their students learn.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **Yes. As far as I can tell, there is widespread support for our assignment plan among the families in our school system. The only complaints I hear are a few from parents of high schoolers who didn't get into the high school of their choice. But the high schools aren't a part of the plan. We just have an open enrollment policy that is totally dependent on capacity and sometimes there aren't enough seats to accommodate all the requests.**

Elisabeth Motsinger

Personal and family history: **I was born in Mt. Kisco, New York and grew up in Shrub Oak, New York, a hamlet in the town of Yorktown. I moved to Forsyth County 27 years ago with my first husband. My two youngest children were born here. My first husband died 25 years ago and I remarried four years later. My husband and I have 3 grown children. Christian is in graduate school at the University of Maryland, pursuing a PhD in mathematics. Lissa graduated from Emerson College and lives in Asheville, NC. Our youngest, John, is a sophomore at UNCG majoring in technical theater.**



Educational background: **I graduated from Stockbridge School, a small progressive independent school in the Berkshire mountains of Massachusetts. I went to Manhattanville College for 2 years and studied art. I went back to school when I was 29, after I was widowed, to Winston-Salem State to study nursing. I was fortunate enough to be accepted into the Physician Assistant program at Wake Forest and graduated in 1989. I have recently taken classes in political science at Guilford College, and am currently a graduate student, again at Wake Forest, studying bioethics.**

Occupation Career: **I work at The Salem Center as a Physician Assistant, a job I have held for 12 years. I worked as a PA since my graduation in 1989.**

Community Involvement: **I have served on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education since 2006. I am on the steering committee of the Society of Organizational Learning Educational Partnership (SOL Ed), a national group committed to schools and communities learning together for a sustainable future. I convene the local group of school system employees working on these initiatives.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I believe that I have accomplished what I set out to do in my first term, mainly by being a bridge builder. I have been concerned with meeting the needs of all our children. I am particularly concerned about those children who can fall through the cracks. I have built relationships both inside and outside of the school system that are focused on improving achievement and fairness for all students. I want to address the problems with dropping out of school, the fact that too many of our children are not achieving, and making our school system more environmentally sustainable.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **This is going to be a really tough budget, and one that will require that we have no "sacred cows." it is important that we keep "our eyes on the prize," namely the educational needs of our children. Issues of increasing taxes are always difficult, however I believe if we as Americans want to maintain infrastructure, and education is indeed an essential part of infrastructure for society, we will have to pay for it.**

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **The most important way we support teacher recruitment and retention is by being a great system to work for. Supporting teacher supplements also lets our teachers know how much we value them. Working cooperatively with North Carolina Association of Teachers creates a climate of mutual respect that makes this a good system to work for.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **I don't have a strong opinion on this. It is a very tight year for budgets and would be hard to get one passed. On the other hand, we are getting a lot for our money right now, and it is a**

Elisabeth Motsinger

great time to get good prices on any work we do, and that will benefit the whole community for years to come.

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **There are two important areas to address in going green. One is operational: it is how we build buildings, address water use, buy supplies, think about landscaping, etc. The more that we incorporate these practices into operations, the more impact they have. The other area is curriculum, making sure that our children are being educated for a sustainable future. As an example, we now require all Career and Technical courses to address sustainability in their lesson plans and course design. We should prepare our students to enter into, and excel, in a green economy.**

I am also involved in getting community gardens on school property, an initiative that has been approved of by the board. Community gardens are a great way to improve the quality of food available to residents, teach children important skills and to develop relationships between neighbors and different generations.

I am involved also with the SOL Ed partnership, a national group, committed to schools and communities working together for a sustainable future.

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **There is no one answer, and part of being innovative is the willingness to try new things and change as necessary based on results. I also hope that the community will learn more about how No Child Left Behind is applied, so that they will stop calling schools "failing" when one or two subgroups are not successful. There is both a public disdain for "teaching to the test" and concern when children are not successful on those tests! We need to be clear what we believe all children need to know in order to be successful in the world they will inherit. We should be willing to try programs that have worked elsewhere as well as be willing to innovate.**

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **This is obviously a major issue and one I hope everyone in the county is concerned about. There are no simple solutions! This is an area where the community including parents, churches and neighborhood associations need to partner with the school system to support our children. The disparities are often due to poverty and we need to find ways to assure that all children have the time and resources to master the curriculum. We need to try different approaches in the classroom, as well as longer school days, tutoring as needed, and possibly more days in school. We also need to ask our students and their families what needs they may have, knowing that this will be an ongoing conversation.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **There is no average student so the issue is about improving achievement for those who are currently not up to grade level as measured by end of grade tests. There are validated best practices that are being used and time will tell how effective they are with our kids. Professional Learning Communities, present in all schools help teachers learn from each others success, and make sure to align curriculum to the needs of our students. We have a high percentage of children on free and reduced lunch and that is unfortunately a predictor of student achievement. There is no question that we must treat this as an urgent concern and stay focused on finding ways to ensure the achievement of our students.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **Another good question. I believe children learn in different ways and that the best thing for parents and students is to make choices available that offer a variety of options. That said, I also think it is a tragedy when we have schools that are almost entirely of one race or economic class. Before any new home school boundary lines are drawn we always look at the racial and economic make-up of the students who will be assigned. I think that diversity in school population is a good idea and one I support, but should not be the only factor in school assignment.**

Nancy P. Sherrill

Personal and family history: **I was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. I moved to North Carolina when I married my husband, Frank Sherrill. We moved to Winston-Salem when my husband joined T. W. Garner Food Company. We have 3 grown children who all graduated from WS/FC schools. Our daughter graduated from Reynolds High School. Our two sons both graduated from Mount Tabor High School. All three children are married with families of their own. Our grandchild in NC attends Meadowlark Elementary School.**

Educational background: **I attended public schools in Birmingham, Alabama, graduating from Woodlawn High School. I received a partial scholarship to attend the University of Alabama and graduated from Alabama with a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education. I later attended Appalachian State University and earned a M.A. degree in Middle School Education. I also attended the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, taking courses to obtain an Administrative License. I attended the *Assistant Principals' Executive Program*, the *Leadership Program for New Principals*, and two technology programs offered by the Principals Executive Program at Chapel Hill.**



Occupation Career: **I am currently retired from WS/FC Schools. Prior to retirement I worked in the school system in different positions: substitute teacher, classroom teacher and Curriculum Coordinator at Ashley Middle School, Middle School Instructional Generalist at the WS/FC Administrative Center, Adjunct Instructor at Appalachian State University, Curriculum Coordinator at Reynolds High School, Assistant Principal at Whitaker Elementary, Principal at Cash Elementary School and I retired as Principal at Brunson Elementary School in July, 2007.**

Community Involvement: **I have worked in many volunteer environments while living in Winston-Salem. I was a member of the Theatre Guild, the Symphony Guild, and the Children's Theatre Board. I served in several offices of the Women's Fellowship of Messiah Moravian Church and Home Moravian Church and served on the Board of Elders of Messiah Moravian Church. I have taught Sunday School and Vacation Church School and served on other church committees. I was a Girl Scout leader and a Cub Scout leader. I served as the President of my homeowners' association and continue to be active in this group. Currently I am a *Guardian ad litem* volunteer working with children in the court system in Forsyth County. I am a member of the Education Committee for IMPRINTS. I serve on the Forsyth Education Partnership Board, this year as the chair of the Teacher Programs Committee, and I serve on the Advisory Board for the State Employees Credit Union on Stratford Road.**

Issue Oriented Questions:

Why do you want to serve on the Board of Education? **I have wanted to serve on the Board of Education for quite some time, but was not eligible to run because I was employed by the school system. Now that I am retired, I want to continue to focus on what has been a passion for me for most of my adult life: helping all students learn and be successful. I believe that education has given me wonderful opportunities and I want to work to make the best educational opportunities available to all students in Forsyth County.**

The school system is faced with a severe financial crisis, if elected how would you respond to this crisis? A number of ideas have been suggested by the staff to reduce spending. Where would you reduce spending in the budget? Would you advocate for an increase in any taxes to support public education? **Without a doubt, this is a hard question to address at this time. The current Board members have knowledge about the 2009-2010 budget and what was cut for this year. But challengers do not have this information. So, my ideas about the budget may touch on areas already affected. My first and foremost objective would be to keep money focused on classrooms (preserving teachers, necessary supplies, etc.). We must preserve teaching positions, especially when**

Nancy P. Sherrill

supplies for cleaning and maintenance) that might be reduced. Since new textbooks are very expensive, perhaps adoption of some of the new textbooks can be delayed. The idea of having teachers take furloughed days on non-instructional days is viable, though not popular. And while reducing staff will be painful, positions at the Administrative Center that are/become vacant may need to go unfilled. I would look for ways to increase income. An increase in the tuition paid by students who live in other counties may be a source of additional income. And it may be necessary to require students of current employees, who live outside Forsyth County, to pay tuition. Not paying tuition has been a benefit for employees living in other counties, but a cost to the school system. I believe the "pay to play" idea for sports has merit. As for an additional tax, I do not think the County Commissioners would approve this now because of the economic impact. I do believe that at another time the discussion should occur about the possibility of the Board of Education being allowed to determine the specific tax rate needed for schools.

What should be the school board's role in teacher recruitment and retention? **I believe the role of the School Board members is to present a positive perspective about teaching in Forsyth County schools. As a Board member, I would ask to accompany Human Resources staff members when they attend or schedule teacher recruitment opportunities. Certainly, the teacher supplement is an important factor to those who teach in NC. When the economic situation improves the Board will need to look at the possibility of raising the supplement to attract more outstanding teachers. Other incentives may be needed also. Retaining good teachers at low socioeconomic schools will require creative ideas including bonus pay for those who do an outstanding job.**

This fall voters in Forsyth County may be asked to approve a bond for new school construction and renovation of existing schools. Would you support a bond referendum if placed on the ballot? Why or why not? **New schools, additions to existing schools and renovations are needed in some locations and a bond referendum is usually the best way to get funding. Before committing to this for 2010, I would want to know where the county currently stands in the servicing of the bonds approved in previous years. I would also want to know the amount of the bonds being requested and what specific projects are to be funded. I think passing a bond referendum at this time may be very unpopular in a community with such a high unemployment rate. That being said, if the amount requested is clearly defined to help specific needs, and the Board decides to ask for a bond referendum, I will support it.**

What are some of your ideas to help the school system "go green?" **The school system already has a focus on efficient use of energy in its buildings, and encourages recycling; these should be continued. Schools need to look for ways to buy "green" supplies. Designs for new construction in the school system should emphasize placement of buildings on the land to take advantage of sun in the winter and shade in the warm months. In addition, new building should incorporate the use of green technologies, including materials used even though some of these may initially cost more than other ways of building. The main point would be to identify possible "green" ideas and incorporate as many as possible, whether building new construction, renovating, or simply making adjustments to existing practices.**

In the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School district there are a number of schools that are considered failing under the No Child Left Behind legislation. What should the school board do to help these schools succeed? **The School Board will need to look at each school individually and help discover what is needed. The recent article in the newspaper concerning Petree Elementary and LEAP Academy gives examples of looking at individual schools, even though the "solutions" seem harsh. Perhaps asking teachers what they realistically need to help students be more successful is a place to start. A plan to help schools get parents involved in the schools should be adopted by the School Board to help the students and their teachers. Neither of these ideas will happen overnight. The School Board should continue to utilize Title I funding to provide the support of**

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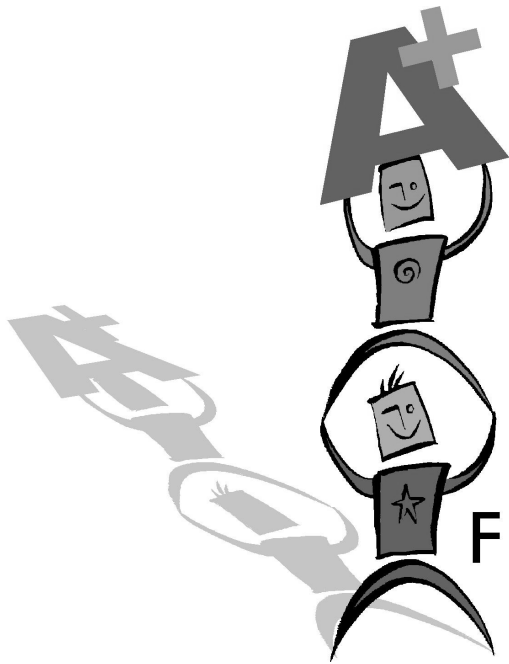
instructional coaches and to get needed resources for the identified schools. The School Board members can request and encourage more community members (volunteers, current employees in other schools, church groups, college students, etc.) to help in these schools.

What more (if anything) should the System do to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in student achievement? **Some people in Forsyth County believe that a new student assignment plan is needed to reduce the racial and ethnic disparities; this should be studied. However, the students cannot wait for this to occur. Help is needed now. One way to impact the schools quickly would be to replace teachers who are not being successful at an equity+ school, even if the school is not yet faced with restructuring. The Board members will have to decide if they want to reassign these teachers to other schools. To replace the needed positions in equity+ schools the School Board will need to offer incentives to outstanding educators to get them to move to these classrooms. Incentives might include more money, opportunities for leadership roles (e.g. the idea of "lead teacher"), bonuses upon successful measurements, etc. As magnet schools develop a longer history, their successes should be publicly celebrated so the community will learn positive information about them.**

Although the WS/FCS System average student achievement level is not below the other urban NC school districts at this time, if it were to drop, what more should the System do to boost average student achievement levels? **The most noticeable difference in the scores within the urban school districts in NC is related to the fact that Forsyth County has a larger number of people living in poverty. When families live in poverty many aspects of life (nutrition, health, education, etc.) suffer. School system employees may not always recognize or understand these factors to be issues that cause deficits in achievement levels. Preparing students to learn new ideas/new concepts may require different teaching strategies. The school system will need to provide more diversity training that incorporates economic diversity.**

Do you support the current School Choice Plan? Why or why not? **The current School Choice Plan offers each family the opportunity to make a choice among limited offerings at the elementary and middle school levels. The out-of-zone transfer is another choice. The fact that families have a choice is a very positive thing. However, transferring out of a low socioeconomic school to one that is more culturally and economically diverse can be very difficult. The more affluent schools are generally full, thus eliminating the possibility of movement to them from other residential schools. When the School Choice Plan was first developed, it contained percentages for white and minority populations. However, the courts have ruled that assignment by race is not legal. Because of these factors, the School Board should research and study ways to assign students that plan for cultural and economic diversity. This will take time and effort to work with all members of the community to develop a plan that will focus on success for all students in Forsyth County.**

Notes



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