

1. Why are you running for school board?

It has been a privilege to serve on the School Board these last 4 years where I have made raising student achievement a top priority. This includes significant gains in writing at the elementary schools; a new curriculum, including honors curriculum for the middle schools; tripling the participation rate in Algebra in the 8th grade, and increasing the number of TC Williams students taking Advanced Placement courses to the highest in the school's history. There is more work left to do to challenge every student and make sure that each one has what he or she needs to be successful.

When I joined the Board in 2008, there was a great deal of turmoil. My election played a strong role in bringing stability to the Board. I have a track record of building consensus and working collaboratively toward a common goal – abilities critical to this important position.

There will be at least 6 new Board members next year. Because of my 4 years of service on the Board and with three children who have been or are being educated in ACPS, I have the experience, judgment, and commitment to continue to work for the benefit of all of our children.

2. What potential do you see at TC Williams that can we can expect school board involvement?

Earlier this year, the School Board adopted a policy adding two student liaisons to the Board from T. C. Williams. Edom Tesfa and Charlotte Clinger are serving this year as the first student liaisons. The Board is looking forward to having more of a student perspective and input into the Board's deliberations. Also, the Policy Committee is expecting the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee to make recommendations on changes to the homework policy. This is the final year of the Persistently Lowest Achieving grant and the Board is expecting the Superintendent's evaluation of which changes – e.g., additional counselors, math teachers teaching one less class, etc. – were most effective in raising student achievement. The Board will need to use this analysis when making budget decisions. Finally, the Board will evaluate the T. C. Williams Satellite Center and consider adding another center if it

has proven effective and prudent.

3. TC Williams is beginning to face major overcrowding issues just a few years after the renovation. How do you plan to avoid or fix this problem?

ACPS has grown by almost 25% or 2600 students since 2008. Growth is projected to continue at over 3% per year. This is the equivalent of T.C. Williams King Street campus or of five George Mason Elementary Schools. This growth has primarily occurred in the elementary grades but as these students advance, the larger numbers of students will move into the middle schools and K-8 schools and then to the high school. The Board will need to consider additional facilities and other innovative solutions like the Satellite Campus and online courses. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projected budget includes a 56-classroom addition to the Minnie Howard campus of T. C. Williams to accommodate the growth, and to keep high school class sizes at a manageable level. This will also provide an opportunity for future programmatic changes. Depending on the rate of enrollment growth, this project, which is listed for for FY 2018-19, may have to be accelerated.

4. Do you plan to incorporate the International Baccalaureate program into our High School? How and when?

The IB Middle Years Program (IBMYP), which extends to 9th and 10th grades, is already being implemented in ACPS middle schools, Jefferson-Houston Pre-K-8 School, and the Minnie Howard and King Street campuses. I strongly support this program because it encourages an interdisciplinary approach and fosters critical thinking. These schools are in the candidacy phase, and an application could be submitted by the Fall of 2013. I understand that there has been some discussion of the IB Diploma Program, which is an 11th and 12th grade program. This program has some attractive features such as the Theory of Knowledge course and learning through service. In addition, there has been interest expressed about a STEM academy associated with T.C. Williams, which could be beneficial for students. I believe that any discussion of the IB Diploma Program or a STEM academy should be held in the broader context of T.C. Williams' AP and dual-enrollment offerings and should include students, teachers, administrators, and parents.

5. What is the largest issue that you support in regards to school board and why?

Throughout my 4 years on the Board, I have made raising student achievement my top priority, and I will continue to do so. There is no one program or “magic bullet” that can raise achievement for every student. It takes a combination of actions by the School Board, which adopts policies and sets priorities for the Superintendent. The School Board, in the objectives it adopts annually for the division, has taken this combination of actions approach. Last year’s objectives were specifically designed to focus on raising achievement for minority students. These educational goals are translated to school education plans and to individual administrator and teacher Professional Learning Plans. Each year, the Superintendent, schools and individuals are evaluated based on how they perform relative to their goals. This accountability system is part of the Malcolm Baldrige education excellence program being implemented in ACPS. It has already yielded positive results at Cora Kelly STEM School, a high poverty school, which achieved a 98% SOL math pass rate last year and a 98% SOL reading pass rate this year.

Implementation of the ELL Plan and the Reading Guidelines are also part of this combination of actions approach. In addition, the School Board has approved an extended school day at Jefferson-Houston K-8 school for one year. If this additional time raises student achievement, the Board should consider implementing extended time at other schools where students are not achieving at high levels.

6. What are your plans on the betterment of the Minnie Howard Campus, or are you not concerned about it at this time?

Please see my response to question 3.

7. What is your history in Alexandria?

My wife, Nancy, and I have lived in the North Ridge neighborhood of Alexandria for 20 years. We have three children –Jack, Ford and Bridget. Jack graduated from T.C. Williams High School earlier this year; Ford is a sophomore at T.C. Williams; and Bridget is in sixth grade at George Washington Middle School. I am been a member of the School Board since 2008 and have been the Chair of the Board’s Policy Committee since 2009. I am also a member of the City of Alexandria Children, Youth, and

Families Collaborative Commission.

8. If you are elected, what can we expect of TC Williams in two years for graduates?

For the first time in many years, T. C. Williams achieved full accreditation this year, increased the on-time graduation rate and reduced the drop out rate. In addition, as mentioned above, more TC Williams students took AP courses this past school year than in any year in the school's history. I expect these trends of higher achievement and challenge to continue, and that students are prepared for college, no matter what they may choose to do after graduation.

If I am re-elected, I will continue to look for ways to increase opportunities for all students to challenge themselves academically and encourage them to take advantage of those opportunities. ACPS has a Cultural Competency Specialist, Mr. Francis Chase, who is working with staff to build cultural competency – understanding and celebrating individual student differences -- and is going to hire an Equity and Diversity Director. This skill by our administrators, teachers and staff is designed to help build deeper relationships with students and to raise expectations for all students, both of which are crucial for raising student achievement.

Remember the Titans—Imagine the Titans—Fulfill the Promise.