

Political Questionnaire David Reeves

- 1) What are the three issues facing Fayette County Schools.
 - a. One major issue facing Fayette County Schools is the blatant misuse of funding. The school system spends over five million dollars per year in (Other) spending. This spending is drastically higher than school systems of similar size. The schools that spend less of (Other) and more one (Instruction) have high success rates.
 - b. Another major issue directly tied to the misuse of funding is the lack of competitive pay for teachers. Spending needs to be directed to Instruction in order to have higher quality teachers.
 - c. Another major issue facing Fayette County Schools is crimes occurring in the school district. These crimes are being committed by both students and faculty. This issue must be confronted directly with severe disciplinary consequences.
- 2) What are my thoughts on Civics being taught in FCPS.
 - a. Civics is a necessary subject that should be taught in our School System. I have spent the last thirteen years working as a police officer. The majority of misunderstanding between police and the public occurs when a citizen does not understand their role in society, especially when dealing with law enforcement. Citizens should be taught and understand their rights and obligations of citizens in society.
- 3) Do you believe C.R.T., and Gender Theory should be taught in schools.
 - a. These subjects hold no significant value to school age children. That includes all students in the FCPS. These subjects should only be taught in higher education.
- 4) What is the correlation between school board funding and state ranking of our public schools.
 - a. I previously mentioned that one of our major issues is the misuse of funding in our school system. Properly funding the instruction aspect of our system can directly improve our statewide ranking. Higher paid teachers translate into better instruction, which translates into better learning.
- 5) What can be done to slow down the exodus from FCPS to Arlington, Lakeland, and Collierville Schools.
 - a. The main thing that needs to be done to slow this exodus is to improve our school system. In order to do this, we must monitor and control how funds are spent by our school system. Improving the quality of instruction will improve the quality of our school system. This will stop the exodus.
- 6) How do you define bad behavior and how should students be held accountable.
 - a. Bad behavior is any behavior that falls under the criminal code and is behavior that distracts from the learning process of other students. Students can be held accountable in many ways. Saturday detention, in school suspension are some easy ways to hold students accountable. One concept I have found in alternative

schools to help hold students accountable is to get the parents involved and invested into the school system. One main way to engage both the student and the parent is to charge a “Book Fee” at the beginning of the semester. This fee will be refunded at the end of the semester, pending the student follow guidelines. Bad behavior would forfeit the “Book Fee”. This concept is in use in an alternative School in Shelby County and has shown drastic improvement in student behavior and Parent engagement.

- 7) What policy solutions would you bring to the school board that would eliminate bad conduct both in the classroom and on the buses.
 - a. The above mentioned “Book Fee” would be one policy solution that I would present to help prevent bad behavior. Bad Behavior cannot be completely eliminated as kids will be kids. Having the parents financially invested in their student’s behavior will have a positive impact on bad conduct. Eliminating the time that students are on the buses is another way to eliminate bad behavior on buses. It has been brought to my attention that students could be on the bus for over an hour. This is unacceptable and I would propose policy to drive that time frame down.
- 8) Do I have any additional comments as to why you feel you should be considered for this position.
 - a. I have spent many years dealing with crime. This is the biggest example of bad behavior. I understand why early childhood education is so important and how failing to educate our children can drive crime rates up. I have a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and have been educated in many alternative punishment systems. This knowledge can be directly entered into policy and positively affect our school system.