

CHARLOTTESVILLE TOMORROW'S 2017 VOTER GUIDE

★ ALBEMARLE ★ VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 7 ★

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Samuel Miller District



John Lowry (R)



Liz Palmer (D)

Jack Jouett District



Diantha
McKeel (D)

Rio District



Ned
Gallaway (D)

ALBEMARLE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Samuel Miller District



Graham Paige



Julian Waters

Jack Jouett District



Kate Acuff

Rio District



Katrina Callsen



Mary McIntyre

Make an informed vote!

This 2017 Albemarle Voter Guide has been produced by Charlottesville Tomorrow. It is intended to help residents make an informed vote on key quality of life issues.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website includes the complete audio and written transcripts of our interview with each candidate. The interviews were used in the compilation of the voter guide and each candidate was given an opportunity to review their verbatim responses before publishing.

Charlottesville Tomorrow does not endorse candidates or make contributions to political campaigns at any level. Charlottesville Tomorrow is a nonprofit organization that provides the community in-depth information on land use, transportation, community design and public education issues.

Informed citizens create better communities.

2017 ALBEMARLE BOARD of SUPERVISORS

CANDIDATE PROFILES

*Contested race in
Samuel Miller District*

In some cases, the candidates' responses have been abbreviated in this Voter Guide. Their complete responses, as well as answers to six additional questions, can be found on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website. Additional topics in our interviews included:

- City-County-UVa relations
- Operations of the Board of Supervisors & County Executive
- Transportation
- Budget
- Designated growth areas
- Rural areas

WHAT DO THE SUPERVISORS DO?

The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors sets the tax rate and determines the budget, including financial support for the school system. The board makes decisions about zoning and other land use regulations, and adopts the Comprehensive Plan.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website (www.cvilletomorrow.org/countyvote) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate interview transcripts, audio recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this Voter Guide.



 There are additional races on the Nov. 7 ballot. View your complete ballot information online at:

<http://vote.virginia.gov>

John Lowry (R)

Samuel Miller District

John Lowry has lived in Albemarle County for more than 40 years. He met and married the former Nancy Feil at the College of William & Mary. His 35 year career of managing investment securities included branch management, registered advisor status, teaching and sharing his industry connections with others. Besides his family and professional duties he volunteered for many community groups. As Chair or President of these groups he gained experience in team management and patient, orderly meetings. His local government knowledge is extensive. With this track record he feels prepared for election.

Education: BA 1969 College of William and Mary

Occupation: Currently Retired

Previous political experience:

Chair of Joint Airport Board, Chair of Economic Development Authority and Chair of Board of Equalization as well as an Election official (assistant Chief)

Age on Election Day: 70

Neighborhood: North Garden

Hometown: Williamsburg

Family: Besides my wife, a Charlottesville native, we have three children and six grandchildren. My two sons are Drs. – one a physician and one a college professor (PhD). My daughter is smartest of all – a Chapel Hill NC graduate.

Other interests and experiences:

I am a runner, boater, singer, bagpiper, golfer and I do what is requested of me around home.

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Liz Palmer (D)

*Samuel Miller District,
Incumbent*

Dr. Palmer is a veterinarian, small business owner and mother who has been deeply involved in

local civic and environmental issues for 20 years. She has represented the Samuel Miller District on the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors since 2014. She also currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority, the Albemarle County Broadband Authority, and the Charlottesville Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization. She lives in Ivy with her husband, Herb Stewart, and their dog Alice. Her children, now grown, all attended Albemarle County Public Schools.

Education: Va Tech: BS and Auburn College of Veterinary Medicine: DVM

Occupation: Veterinarian self-employed mobile veterinary practice

Previous political experience: Board of Supervisors 2014 to present, Albemarle County Service Authority 2006 through 2013

Age on Election Day: 62

Neighborhood: Ivy

Hometown: Moved a lot as a child. Grew up primarily in Virginia and Delaware.

Family: Herb Stewart husband. Children Clay, Ben, Matt, Bailey all went to Albemarle County schools. They are now grown and doing well.

Other interests and experiences:

Spending time with family, hiking, camping and studying macroeconomics, herpetology, and most science related topics.

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Ned Gallaway (D)

Rio District



My interest in serving on the Board of Supervisors is about Moving Albemarle Forward. My vision of moving forward includes a focus on three top priorities: public education, public safety, and smart, sustainable economic development. The residents of Albemarle rightly have strong expectations to sustain a high quality of life and I'm running to ensure that it's protected and enhanced in the coming years.

Education:

- BFA Ohio University, 1996
- EDD The Curry School, UVA 2014

Occupation: General Sales Manager, Mercedes Benz of Charlottesville

Previous political experience:

At Large Member Albemarle Co School Bd, 2011-15; Chair, 2014-2015

Albemarle County School Long Range Planning Advisory Committee, Rio District Member, 2011

Albemarle County Parent Council, Agnor Hurt Rep, 2010-2011

Age on Election Day: 43

Neighborhood: Dunlora

Hometown: Wheeling, WV

Family: Wife - Julie; Daughters - Kaitlyn (16); Maggie (11); AJ (8).

Other interests and experiences:

Reading, kayaking, spending time w family, watching my kids play sports (soccer, field hockey, baseball), attending UVA Women's Soccer games.

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Website: www.nedgallaway.com

Diantha McKeel (D)

Jack Jouett District, Incumbent



A resident of the Jack Jouett District for 41 years, I was elected four times to the Albemarle County School Board and now serve as the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. My highest priority is to continue to lift the quality of life for our residents through regional and community partnerships and innovative programming that achieve responsible economic growth and a more diverse tax base; meet current transportation and housing needs; preserve rural areas and deliver high-quality public safety and education services. My highest responsibility is ensuring that government will achieve these goals by being inclusive, fair, nonpartisan and cost-effective.

Education:

B.A. Bridgewater College (Sociology/elementary teaching certification); Licensed Practical Nurse (UVA); Certified Research Professional (ACRP)

Occupation: Retired, UVA Cardiology Clinical Research Coordinator

Previous political experience:

Elected to 4 terms, Albemarle County School Board; elected to Albemarle County Board of Supervisors 2013, currently serving as Chair

Age on Election Day: 67

Neighborhood: Canterbury Hills

Hometown: Staunton

Family: Two adult children: daughter, Megan Armstrong and family live in Albemarle County; son, Thomas McKeel lives in Georgia; and Brody "Mostly" Beagle.

Other interests and experiences:

Traveling; reading; walking Brody; Adopt-A-Highway Committee Chair; John E. Baker Legacy Dinner Committee, supporting The African American Teaching Fellows (AATF); Gang Reduction through Active Community Engagement Committee (GRACE); Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA) board member; Daughters of the American Revolution, Jack Jouett Chapter; The Greencroft Club Board; former Mental Health Association Board; and, Charlottesville Municipal Band Fundraising Committee.

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**Learn about the
Albemarle School Board
candidates starting on page 10**



Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors.

Samuel Miller District

John Lowry (R)

I'm a long-time volunteer and participant in county activities, as chair of the airport board when the new airport was built back in the late 80s and we wanted it to be a gateway to the community. It's a pretty building. I was chair of the Economic Development Authority for 12 years for the county, and we did many good things. We did \$500 million in bonds for many worthy borrowers over that time period. And I was chair of the Board of Equalization for five years — the tax board where people come and say how happy they are to pay taxes. I've been an election official for my precinct assistant chief. So I've done a lot for the county and done a lot of things with the staff and I've enjoyed very much working with the county and for the county.

Liz Palmer (D)

Well I lived here now for 20 years now....I'm a small animal veterinarian. I've been practicing for over 35 years and I have a small business, so I do understand business issues and what it takes to make a living as a business owner. I got involved in environmental

issues. I've actually been a hiker, an outdoors type for many, many years and when I first moved here my children and I we did tremendous amount of hiking. And what we found was that our rivers were being stressed by over-withdrawal of water for the urban area. And that got me involved in the local politics. I joined the League of Women Voters and started to advocate for in-stream flow requirements on our rivers and for better infrastructure to stop our leaky pipes. I also found out at that time that we had terrible sewer infrastructure and that we were leaking sewage into the Rivanna River and its tributaries during moderate rainstorms. So that continued my quest to get a master sewer plan.

In 2006, I asked my then-Supervisor Sally Thomas to appoint me to the Albemarle County Service Authority Board of Directors so I could get in there and be one of the folks that make the decisions. And I did get appointed. I spent eight years on that board. I worked very closely with the city and the County to get a water supply plan approved. That was 14 years worth of very hard work. I did do the negotiations with the city for the county so I very much understand the players and what it takes to work with the city on large infrastructure

projects. ...

I've been on the Board of Supervisors now for four years. I ran in 2013 and I joined the board in 2014. I did get appointed to the Rivanna Solid Waste Authority. At the time that I was appointed to that, the past Board had been in the process of privatizing all of our solid waste facilities. I think it's a very reasonable thing for the private sector to take care of the hauling from your house to a transfer facility or landfill. I do think it's important for a public entity to have control over where that trash goes so it's not subject to the fluctuations of the economy. So I thought that was not a good idea to do that. And I worked very hard to turn around the ship. We're now actually breaking ground next month on a new transfer facility out at Ivy and we're trying to start recycling. ...

The other thing that qualifies me that I've been doing over the last four years, I've gotten very much involved in rural internet service area and I've also been appointed to our new Albemarle County Broadband Authority. We are working with service providers and applying for grants, state grants, to try to get rural Internet service which a lot of people don't realize that if they live in the city that we have whole

areas in the county have no service at all. And many others who have inadequate service because of over-subscription. So those are the things I think that qualify me for another four years.

Rio District

Ned Gallaway (D)

First off I'm a county resident, so that's a good start. I live in the county. In my past elected office experience, I was on the Albemarle County School Board as the at-large member. I served two years as chair. Serving as chair gave me some insight into working with the Board of Supervisors a bit more closely, specifically their chair, especially during budget time. So I have an idea not just of how the school budget works but in a large picture how the whole county budget works. I've been involved in that process in some capacity. Professionally, I'm a general sales manager at the Mercedes Benz of Charlottesville over on Pantops. Prior to that, I was here working on my degree at the [UVA] Curry School, doctorate in education. I was a teacher in my former life. So I've got both public... sector employee experience and private sector employee experience and that I can say,

again, going back to my time on the school board, having worked in both those sectors serves well when you're serving in public office, you tend to have both sides of the aisle covered, if you would. And then, I'm a parent. I think it's important for people that are serving not just on School Boards but also in your local offices are folks that are committed who have families here who plan on investing and being in the community for a long time and that I am. So I think that is a good qualifier for somebody running for local office.

Jack Jouett District **Diantha McKeel (D)**

After 20 years of service to the Jack Jouett District residents and having been a four-time elected member of our county school board and I have served one elected term of the Board of Supervisors. I believe I am uniquely positioned. I currently serve as Board of Supervisors Chair. On the school board, I had oversight responsibility for 26 schools, 13,000 students and an annual operating budget of \$155 million. As a supervisor, I have responsibility for 107,000

residents in an annual operating and capital budget of about \$398 million. I am a member of the police anti-gang task force, the job of board, a board liaison to the Citizen Police Advisory Committee, the Charlottesville-Albemarle University of Virginia Planning and Coordinating Council, also known as PACC, Piedmont Workforce Network Council and I represent the county on VDOT's (Virginia Department of Transportation) Hydraulic Route 29 area planning advisory panel. I'm an organizer and leader for 21 years of a local adopt a highway pickup team and I

grew up in a small business family and led the Albemarle County school division to join the Chamber of Commerce. Years ago, I retired from the region's largest employer the University of Virginia as a clinical research coordinator. I'm a former teacher who holds an LPN degree and a clinical research certification and a graduate of Bridgewater college with a major in education and sociology so I have a broad range of experiences and familiarity with county government, the county, the school system and my residents in my community.

What is your top priority for action by the Board if you are elected?

Samuel Miller District **John Lowry (R)**

My top priority, if and when I'm elected, is to be, for the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, of a different political persuasion. The county now has only really one party represented at the Board of Supervisors, as does the city — only one party. I don't think, Tim and Brian [Wheeler], that it's healthy not to have different points of view and I can represent, civilly and articulately and from a different philosophy, something that could add a lot to conversation in the county, so that maybe decisions are reached quicker, more quickly, and

more thoroughly in their discussion. I would like to be that person, be the fresh face on the Board of Supervisors.

Liz Palmer (D)

This one was a tough one for me because I have several because I've been on the board for four years. I think that there's a lot of issues with respect to transportation and getting in bike/ped [bike and pedestrian pathways and sidewalks]. I have a lot of safety issues in my district in the southern side in the Sunset Avenue, Old Lynchburg Road and Fifth Street Extended area. It's very dangerous to walk in there. We're putting in more

affordable housing and more apartment complexes and you can't walk to Azalea Park without taking your life into your own hands. So that's a big project with me. Also like I said I've been working with the Solid Waste Authority. I want to complete our water supply plan. And I also want to do the rural broadband.

Rio District **Ned Gallaway (D)**

I think economic development will be my top priority. I have issues that are of importance to me in terms of campaign, both as a campaigner, what my campaign priorities are, and then also my legislative

priorities, public education and public safety being the top two. But economic development is something that, with our urbanizing county, that we need to be in front of and working to make sure we have a solid plan. The county's been without an economic development director, and we have an opportunity with a new county executive coming in and I would imagine with the new economic development director was intentionally put on hold until that person is in place. But we have a real opportunity to bring in new, fresh ideas and insight with a new county executive, hiring a good top notch economic director who I hope will have

urban planning experience as well, and get down to growing in our development areas the local economy in a way that's going to help us pay for the services that we like to provide in this county.

Jack Jouett District **Diantha McKeel (D)**

I would describe my to priority as continuing to lift the quality of life for all the residents in Albemarle County. I would like to do that through regional and

county partnerships and innovative programming that achieve economic growth, specifically targeted economic growth and a more diverse tax base. We have transportation and housing needs. We need to preserve our rural areas. We need to deliver high

quality public education and safety services. And so my responsibility is to ensure that government achieves those goals by being fair to our residents, inclusive, nonpartisan and cost effective.

Charlottesville-Albemarle Relations: To what do you attribute the tension that currently exists between the city and county and what will you do to promote mutually beneficial relations?

Samuel Miller District

John Lowry (R)

It's too bad that the city and the county don't get along better. And yet, we get along much better than it might be. So it's sort of, could be better, could be worse. For the Ragged Mountain trails, I think that it's too bad that mostly the city hasn't communicated before action was taken. But the county, with good leadership, if we'd had, for instance, [former Supervisor] Jane Dittmar at the head of the county right now, chair of the board, I think you'd have a mediator and there would have been action. I'm kind of sorry it has turned out the way it has. For the court facilities, I am in favor of the court facilities staying downtown. That's option one. We have a beautiful historic courthouse, where we spent \$3 million

to bury the utility lines about 10 years ago. It's a beautiful place. The Levy Opera House has three floors that we could have, where there would be county courts on one floor, city courts on another floor and a third floor that's excess capacity right now. And the county would take up the city on its offer to build a parking garage at the corner of 6th and Market Street. And [then] we don't need to move, and I'm surprised to find that businessmen don't want to have the county move out to the northern part of the county. And so I don't see any reason we should change. Last point though, there could be mergers between city and county activities that administration could be streamlined. They have duplicate services, but the duplicate services are always going to be there because they're needed for both populations. But

there could be mergers of administrations that streamline activity.

Liz Palmer (D)

I think that in both these cases it's communication and understanding of the specifics involved. If we take the court's, I'm not trying to insult anybody, but I've spent a great deal of time trying to understand how our criminal justice system works together locally here. And for those who work in criminal law, it's pretty obvious that co-location of those courts are essential. It's going to cost us a lot more money if we separate them. It is also going to potentially cause people to stay in jail longer. So there's a lot of ripple effects and social justice issues associated with moving them apart. And I think that if our board members that voted to continue on this track,

and we do have studies coming out in November, I'm hoping that we'll turn them around. But I think it's a lack of understanding of how it works. And I think there's some frustration between the city and the county sometimes because we're often in different places. We have different political considerations at different times and somehow sometimes hard to coordinate that. With respect to the Ragged Mountain Area, I think there's two things. One is this very basic "Who has the right to control?," and that's what's in court right now. And that's separate from whether mountain biking is good or bad. I have to admit, I don't mountain bike anymore, but I spent a good portion of my life as a mountain biker. And I know that there are a lot of very very responsible mountain bikers. I know that when you build a trail for

hikers which is what's being suggested at Ragged Mountain, they're kind of boring for mountain bikers. And so you're going to get a certain type of mountain biker on those trails. And I think there's just a lack of understanding of how that all works. It's more likely that a hiker is going to wander off the trail to look at a plant than it is a mountain biker, quite frankly. Social paths do more damage in woods than than your average mountain biker, like moms like me. They're not all young men that want to go really, really fast and crash through the woods. I have I have three sons. There are some young men that like to do damage in the woods, but it's my experience that most of them are very responsible.

Rio District **Ned Gallaway (D)**

I don't want this to come across like I'm pointing the finger at any one individual, because I don't think its individuals, but I think it's the nature of being in a political office or being in charge of... something that has lines drawn around a jurisdiction. Politics, money, and power, that's what it's going to come down to. Usually if there's something, you know some of the things that we're working well on, it seems like we're able to get past that and see the mutual benefit for both jurisdictions and to move on it. And for the things

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Charlottesville Tomorrow is pleased to bring you the eighth installment of our Voter Guide. We pull this content together because we are committed to giving you the information you need to make informed choices about our community's future. Please help us continue to provide this service by making a donation to Charlottesville Tomorrow. You can do so by visiting www.cvilletomorrow.org/donate.

[where] that isn't existing, if I had to guess, now I maybe I will know a little better once I'm serving on the board and getting behind the scenes if you would, but I suspect that it's one of those three if not all three. And it's hard, I can't imagine for somebody that knows their responsibility for their jurisdiction that if something's going to work regionally maybe you have to give up a little bit of control or power or money or political persuasion that goes against your jurisdictional responsibility in the greater good of a regional benefit. And it's going to take people that are committed to that that are [saying], "This is important. This is why I'm doing it." And they'll have to get together and do it. Now in terms of "what will you do to promote mutually beneficial relations," well that's just good old-fashioned relationship building. I'm going to have to build relationships, not just with the folks on the current supervisors but also the folks that are on the city council

and the county executive, city manager, we're going to have to build relationships so that if it's a strong relationship we can trust one another so that when we maybe do take risks or chances that maybe does go against our individual jurisdiction then maybe people will feel more comfortable about moving ahead because we're all looking towards a regional goal. I don't know what else to say to that beyond just the old school politics, power, and control, is probably what it comes down to, and money.

Jack Jouett District **Diantha McKeel (D)**

From 50,000 feet up in the sky, I think the tension that you see between Charlottesville and Albemarle is a result of the structure that the state of Virginia has for our counties and our cities. It's a very unusual structure in that cities in Virginia have an independent status. And I think that that just creates

a natural tension between cities and counties. In a perfect world, if I was queen, Charlottesville and Albemarle would be one community. I think most of our residents don't even know where the, necessarily, the lines are drawn, but we operate under a state government that creates very strong independent cities and counties that have to go to the General Assembly, under the Dillon Rule, for everything we want to do. We have to say 'Mother may I' to the General Assembly for almost everything. So it sets us up as-you have a situation where Albemarle County completely surrounds the city and that state governance really sets us up, at times, for disputes. ... Your question was about bikes at Ragged Mountain Natural Area, the subject of a lawsuit and I'm going to talk about this a minute because it's a good example. The lawsuit between the city and the county is really not about

biking at all. It's about the fact that the city is an independent entity and owns the land at Ragged Mountain but ... the land is located in Albemarle County. So as an independent city, Charlottesville has said that their ordinances should apply at Ragged Mountain. Albemarle County is where the property is located so what we have said is that no, because it's in Albemarle

County our ordinances apply. Albemarle County hasn't even talked about whether or not we're we're interested in allowing biking at Ragged Mountain. What you have right now is a lawsuit that is a constitutional question about governance. Essentially what the city is doing would be called annexation by purchase. So it gets back to the independent city status and Albemarle County being a

county, does a City have, with an independent status, the same ability as the state of Virginia to do what they want within Albemarle County. Our argument is that just because they're a city doesn't mean that their ordinances would apply in Albemarle County. So the city and the county, in all honesty are not, we're not at odds with each other over this particular lawsuit. We have both agreed

that that is a constitutional question that can only be answered by the courts, but it is an example of how an independent city status sets us up a little bit with a county around it to have some tensions at times. It's hard for the public to understand, they think we're fighting when the truth of the matter is that we just have these statutory conflicts that have to be resolved. ...

RACE RELATIONS: If elected, what will you do to help our community move forward in the aftermath of this past summer's violent demonstrations and how will you seek to best represent and effectively serve our economically and racially diverse communities?

Samuel Miller District

John Lowry (R)

Well, I believe the county's race relations are pretty good, and we we're talking about Caucasians and Asians and Hispanics and blacks, and I believe the county's relations in getting along together in little communities — I live out in North Garden and we mix very well out in North Garden, so I don't see that there's a persistent problem like perhaps there is in the City of Charlottesville, and I think the City of Charlottesville is mainly the one that has to take responsibility for this tragic happening that has blemished Charlottesville — Charlottesville is Charlottesville-Albemarle's

reputation — and it is a permanent effect. There was going to be growth in the county. And there will be growth in the county, but it's minus x. There will be people who will not move here, and there are people who will move away. So it's been a tragic thing, but the only problem in Albemarle County, and it's not really a problem but it's a challenge, is Yancey [Elementary] School did close, and I knocked on doors going down Porters Road and they're very unhappy, but it was a long time coming and it has happened. So we need to face the reality and there is good work being done with many, many activities being suggested for that building, which is now going to be owned by the county and not the

school board. So that's one area where we do need to do some work in this very southern part of the county.

Liz Palmer (D)

I would continue to do it the way I've been doing it. There's a tremendous amount of difference in the community in different groups and how they feel about this. I think that it's very clear to everybody now that the majority of the folks that came to Charlottesville were from outside this community. I think there's been a tremendous amount of outpouring from the whole rest of the world. I was listening to somebody speak last night that said that this has just damaged us and that nobody's going to want to come to Charlottesville

ever again. I think that's pretty bogus, quite frankly. I don't think that's true. I think that there's a lot of sympathy out there and not dread. So I would continue to do things the way I've always done. In the county, our police force and the county already regularly reaches out to our Latino and African-American populations. They already go to churches and regular visits and I've done that with them and done meetings. And so that was happening long before this occurred. In this community, we concentrate on education, we're an education community, and that's the greatest leveller for economic equality. So I would continue to emphasize that. And, I think we have our share of folks that want to have meetings

and come together meetings and things like that. So I can't really say that I think we need to do anything more about that. So basically, I would just continue to do more of what I've done.

Rio District Ned Gallaway (D)

I think the focus needs to be on the items, and a deep focus on items that existed prior to August 12th that would be a concern that would hit these things. I'm talking about... quality of housing, affordable housing, the suspension rates in both the city and the county schools for African American children, the ratio is a little bit out of proportion for what exists for white children. And you know, those are the type of things that I think go to what allows these other things to bubble up. I mean there's no excuse, nobody... when you have such an extreme group come in and do something... you know I think the city is seeing that they can do to perhaps prevent or control

that in a way. But beyond that type of extremism that has popped up recently, I think there are other deep-rooted things that exist in the county and the city that can be attacked and that usually goes to what impacts people's everyday lives. Do I have equity of opportunity? Do I have equity of income earning ability? Do I have equity in education? Do I have equity in opportunity to serve in elected offices? Those are the type of things that we can fix and focus on and go, wait we're out of balance, things are askew there, then that I think is going to go a long way to helping solve some of the deep seeded roots of what can be seen as institutional racism. That'll be my focus.

Jack Jouett District Diantha McKeel (D)

For me, all successful paths lead from education and we have to deal with our community's systemic inequalities through, in my opinion, education we have a real gap, and I'm speaking right now for Albemarle

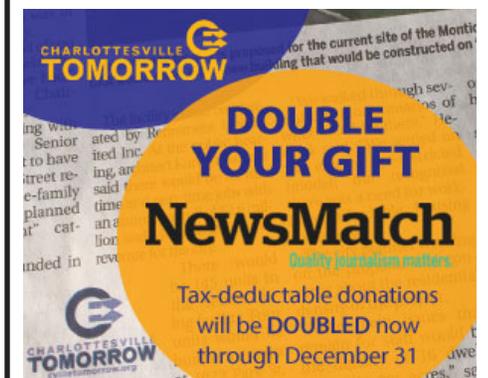
County, but we certainly have a gap in quality daycare for our young people and high quality pre-K education. So for me, I think education is where we have to start. We're striving to do that in Albemarle County, I know the school division has been looking at, for example, how to improve the ability for parents to even have access to after school care. The United Way has done a wonderful job with a partnership around trying to improve our pre-K offerings, but all of these efforts so far have a long ways to go in really reaching out. The University of Virginia's employees, the number one reason that their employees don't make it to work is because of lack of childcare. A great number of our constituents can't take jobs because of childcare. I think it really starts with education, from the very young ages with our young children and providing opportunities through transit. Like if you can't get to [Piedmont Virginia Community College] on a bus because you don't have a car, if you can't get to a job. So part of this

struggle in our community is really providing access for not only education but for just basic transit availabilities and also items that increase the quality of life for folks. But we're working on a transit partnership with the city right now. I give you an example, I have a constituent that lives on Ivy road, and for people that are in the community they know Ivy Road and Hydraulic Road, their social worker called me a few months ago and said that in order for them to take a job and get from Ivy road to Hydraulic road they had to ride seven buses roundtrip. You can't obviously take a job if that's the situation you're in. So the the transit partnership that Charlottesville and Albemarle have just come together and agreed to form, along with the University of Virginia, is going to be huge for this community in enabling many of our citizens to be able to get to jobs and educational opportunities. I think that's where you start.

On Charlottesville Tomorrow's website you can read or listen to the candidates' responses to **six additional questions** on:

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2017 ALBEMARLE SCHOOL BOARD

CANDIDATE PROFILES

Contested races in Rio and Samuel Miller Districts

In some cases, the candidates' responses have been abbreviated in this Voter Guide. Their complete responses, as well as answers to six additional questions, can be found on the Charlottesville Tomorrow website. Additional topics in our interviews included:

- CATEC
- Student success
- Budget
- Teacher compensation
- Operations of the school board & superintendent
- Race relations
- Future school facilities
- Technology

WHAT DO SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS DO?

School Board members hire and supervise the school division's Superintendent, set the budget, and make school policy. In Virginia, school boards do not have taxing authority and elections are nonpartisan.

Charlottesville Tomorrow's website (www.cvilletomorrow.org/countyvote) features comprehensive coverage of the local elections including news, candidate interview transcripts, audio recordings of the candidate forums, and downloadable copies of this Voter Guide.



There are additional races on the Nov. 7 ballot. View your complete ballot information online at:

<http://vote.virginia.gov>

Katrina Callsen

Rio District

Katrina Callsen is a parent and former teacher who knows the importance of public education. Both of her parents dropped out of high school and they instilled in her the value of hard work, service, and a quality education in order to create a better future. That mindset pushed her to graduate from Yale, serve with Teach for America, and graduate from UVA Law with a focus on child advocacy. She is ready to give back to her community by working tirelessly to ensure that all children have a chance to succeed in both school and life.

Education: Yale University, B.A. Political Science; UVA Law, J.D

Occupation: Currently a stay-at-home mom; formerly a middle school math teacher

Previous political experience: None

Age on Election Day: 31

Neighborhood: Rio / Dunlora

Hometown: I was born and raised on military bases around the world. My parents and extended family are all from VA (Scottsville, Fredericksburg, Staunton).

Family: I have a fantastic husband who is a dedicated entrepreneur (RhoAI, MC10), two curious sons who are fascinated by volcanoes, and a dog who can sneeze on command.

Other interests and experiences:

I was a CASA volunteer, ardent intramural participant, and nighttime cross-stitcher before having children. Now I encourage my sons to be active and thoughtful with Kids Give Back and I find myself attending just about every family friendly community event around, including Carver Rec events, Northside library classes, truck touches, Fun Runs at Pen Park, and all the other amazing things we offer children in our community.

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Mary McIntyre

Rio District

Mary McIntyre grew up in North Carolina and is the daughter of two retired teachers. Her first love, music, led her to attend the Governor's School of N.C. for violin. During her first teaching job she met and married her husband, and they began traveling the world as a military family. While working and raising their family, Mary earned two master's degrees in education. The perspective and experience Mary gained teaching in five different school systems, including Albemarle County, has given her a strong understanding of educational policy and further solidified her commitment to public education and community service.

Education:

- Bachelor's of Music Education- 2001, University of North Carolina-Greensboro.
- Master's of Music Education- 2007, University of Michigan.
- Master's of Education in Curriculum Studies for Literacy Specialists-2017, University of Hawaii.

Occupation: I am a teacher but am not currently employed. Last employer was Albemarle County Public Schools.

Previous political experience: None

Age on Election Day: 38

Neighborhood: Woodbrook

Hometown: Greensboro, NC

Family: My husband, Marshall, is an intelligence analyst and an Air Force veteran. Our daughter is in 5th grade, and our son is in 2nd grade. Both attend Woodbrook Elementary School.

Other interests and experiences:

I have been a Girl Scout leader, active PTO volunteer, community organizer with Together Cville, and I volunteer monthly at naturalization ceremonies. In Germany, I founded and led a Dining for Women chapter for two years - an educational collective giving organization devoted to lifting women and children out of poverty. I volunteered in a school in Tanzania in 2013. My favorite things to do are reading and working on our house, which is a fixer-upper.

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Graham Paige

Samuel Miller District, Incumbent

I have a Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University and Master of Education from the University of Virginia. I am retired after teaching in public schools for 30 years (25 years in Albemarle County at Jack Jouett Middle and WAHS). I have served as the Samuel Miller Representative on the Albemarle County School Board for the past two years after winning a special election following the resignation of Eric Strucko from the Board. Before winning the special election, I served for three years on the Long Range Planning Committee as the Superintendent's Equity and Diversity appointee.

Education: B.S., Hampton University; Master of Education- University of Virginia

Occupation: Retired teacher

Previous political experience:

Elected in 2015 to Albemarle County School Board

Age on Election Day: 71

Neighborhood: Esmont

Hometown: Esmont

Family: Many relatives in the Esmont area

Other interests and experiences: I enjoy reading, playing Scrabble on iPad and attending the Esmont Senior Citizens Center. I am active in New Green Mountain Baptist Church as a Sunday School Teacher, Trustee and organist. I also am a member of several fraternal and civic organizations including the 100 Black Men of Central Virginia, Sons of Esmont Lodge- GUOOF, Esmont School Alumni Association, Albemarle County Democratic Party and the Scottsville Museum Board.

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Julian Waters

Samuel Miller District

Julian Waters is an Albemarle County native who recently graduated from Western Albemarle High School after 13 years in the public school system. Julian is an avid drone and model aviation hobbyist, a passion which he shares with his father and friends. For the past two years he has led a drone-centered STEM course for students at Henley Middle School. He is currently on a one-year deferment from ODU while he runs for the School Board and will explore local education options should he win the election.

Education: Advanced Diploma, Western Albemarle High School

Occupation: Part-time deli worker, Bellair Market

Previous political experience: None

Age on Election Day: 18

Neighborhood: Owensville

Hometown: Ivy

Other interests and experiences:

I love spending time with friends and family and enjoy spending time outdoors. I have a secret ambition to one day become an actor and I'm also a certified SCUBA diver.

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Kate Acuff

Jack Jouett District, Incumbent

I have practiced law, taught at Emory University's School of Public Health, consulted on mental health issues with The Carter Center, and worked in both government and with non-profits. I have a strong commitment to public services, particularly in public health and education. As the daughter of middle school teachers, each of whom spent nearly 40 years in public education, I respect the dedication necessary to educate our students. That understanding coupled with my background in science, law, and public policy has been invaluable for my work on the Albemarle County School Board.

Education:

- BS, Microbiology, University of Tulsa
- MS, Microbiology and Immunology, University of Colorado
- JD, Georgetown University Law Center
- MPH, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- PhD, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health

Occupation: Self employed; Health Policy Consultant

Previous political experience: Currently the Jack Jouett District representative on the Albemarle County School Board

Age on Election Day: 67

Neighborhood: Ivy Farm neighborhood

Hometown: Iowa

Family: Married; one daughter; two granddaughters.

Other interests and experiences:

I have worked in the public, private and nonprofit arenas and have a strong background in public policy. I am currently Board President of the nonprofit, Partner for Mental Health, and Board Chair of the University of Virginia Physicians Group.

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Please describe your past experience that qualifies you to be on the Albemarle County School Board.

Rio District

Katrina Callsen

I think anybody that is willing to work hard and put children first is qualified to be on the school board. Beyond that, I think I bring a few extra qualifications. I was a full-time math teacher. I also went to UVA law where I focused on child advocacy, which means I was a CASA volunteer. I interned at the child protection unit, and I spent my whole third year as part of the advocacy clinic, which allowed me to work with children who were being denied educational opportunities. I also have the experience of being a mother. I have two wonderful boys at home, my oldest is going to be starting school next year, and his brother is right behind him, so you could say that I have the next eternity of 6 a.m. wake up calls, but also investment in our local public schools. I've been raising my boys in Charlottesville, in Albemarle County actually- in the Rio District, and I think having the experience of being from the community and being a mother is a really important one to bring to the school board.

Mary McIntyre

Well I've spent my entire career in public education. I have three degrees in education and over the course of my teaching career, since I started in 2003, I've worked in five different school systems. I've worked in Raleigh, North Carolina, in Newport News, Virginia, Ramstein, Germany, Kaneohe, Hawaii and then most recently in Albemarle County. Last school year, I just worked part time 4 hours a day doing reading intervention tutoring at Agnor-Hurt Elementary school. So I have not had a traditional career in education, which is one of the things that I think actually makes me a really good candidate. The experience of teaching in so many different places really has given me a strong understanding, both of educational policy, but it's given me the ability to work closely with many different kinds of people in many different situations, and I'm also a parent of two children who are in elementary school so I'm invested in our schools from the inside and from the outside and I think that that gives me a really valuable perspective.

Samuel Miller District

Graham Paige

The top qualification would be that I have 30 years experience teaching in the public schools in Virginia. Twenty-five of those years were in here in Albemarle County, twenty-three I think out at Western [Albemarle High School] and the two at Jack Jowett [Middle School]. And after I retired from teaching, I spent some time on the long range planning committee, which helps to give the school board input on finances, redistricting, and other problems. So the 30 years of teaching experience plus the three years on long range planning would probably be my main qualifications for being on the School Board, plus being a lifelong resident here in the County.

Julian Waters

For the past 13 years of my life I went to public school here in our county. That's a pretty big qualifying factor. The reason that I say that it qualifies me is because it makes me well-suited to speak to the issues that students and teachers are facing every day in the classroom. It's a perspective that we don't always have, and it's one that I think would be valuable in a

polycymaking role.

For the past three years I've served as a policy adviser to Albemarle County on programs such as the new High School 2022 program that's going to be rolled out in coming years and also on one policy in particular that aimed to give students opportunities to earn confirmed credit hours other than seat time measured hours, which I think was a great way for us to expand opportunities for students to earn confirmed credit. Aside from those qualifications, with I've worked with teachers at Henley [Middle School] and at my high school of Western Albemarle to create a drone model aviation club. My personal hobby is model aviation and so the opportunities that I had to go out and share those experiences with other students in a sort of mentorship or teaching role gave me an understanding and an appreciation for the struggles that those students and those teachers go through in the school system as well.

Jack Jouett District Kate Acuff

I have background and training in law, public policy, science. I've worked in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. And I have on completing my first term on the school board the past

two years of which I've served as chair. I think I have a broad understanding of government, policy and the importance of public schools in our community and I would be delighted to be re-elected to continue doing that.

What is your top priority for action by the School Board during the next four years?

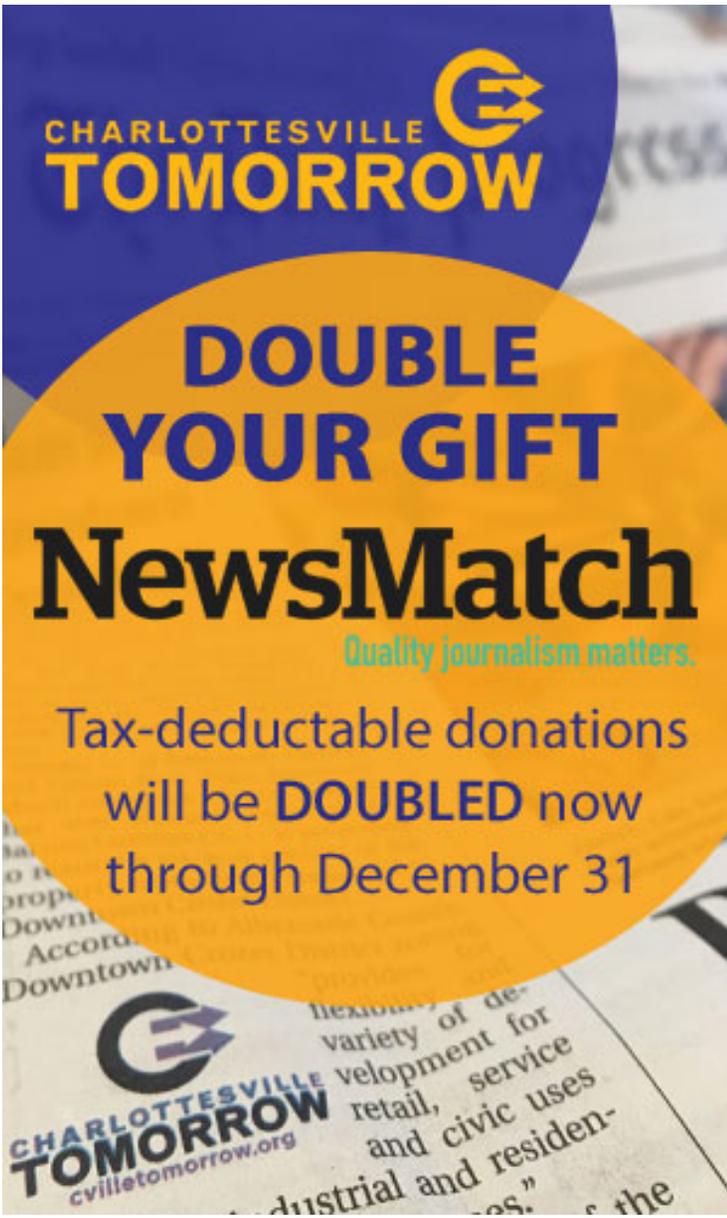
Rio District Katrina Callsen

The top priority for me has always been improving educational outcomes and opportunities for our students. It is one of the reasons I decided to run. We have a changing demographic in our district, in my district in particular- the Rio District. Over half the students who are entering our urban ring elementary schools are low income and that number is expected to grow dramatically. I, both of my parents dropped out of high school, and I grew up very low income, and I know how important it is to make sure that demographics don't become destiny. And so I feel like the top action we need to be taking is making sure that all of our students are not only graduating, but graduating with clear paths to either career, educational, and personal- not either-

career, educational, and personal success.

Mary McIntyre

I think it's important to acknowledge that what one member, one board member can and cannot do. While I may join the board with my own list of priorities there are six other board members who have their own list of priorities. So part of the job of the school board, I feel, is to build relationships both with each other on the school board but also with the [Albemarle County] Board of Supervisors so when it's time to push forward some priorities in front of others those relationships are already established. With that said, I believe that the biggest cloud that's hanging over our head right now has to do with the low performance in our Title I schools here. In a school system with only 15 elementary schools, four of



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our elementary schools are designated Focus schools by the state. That means that they have significant proficiency gaps between the highest and the lowest performing students and they're not meeting annual benchmarks. That puts them in the bottom 15 percent of our schools in the state. So that coupled with the really complicated redistricting process that encapsulates our students with the most need in the urban ring elementary schools, I feel like we need a clear plan or a strategy of how we're going to target that. And we can certainly debate the perils of standardized tests because when we're scoring schools and trying to rate school quality a lot of people refer to standardized test scores and those are really controversial. And I am definitely for standardized test reform, but as long as the state requires them, we have to administer those tests. So I think we really need immediate, targeted intervention into our focus schools and we need an honest evaluation of the effectiveness of what we are doing so far and if those schools need more resources and more support then that's what we need to give them so that we can meet the needs of every child at those schools.

Samuel Miller District **Graham Paige**

It's pretty hard to narrow it down to one. I probably could have two top priorities that would be sort of almost tied. The first one would be the SEED program, which is included in the County budget and the Superintendent's budget for this year. And that program is trying to close the achievement gap in right now in just our urban ring elementary schools, but anything that we discover that would work in those schools will be applied to other schools outside of the urban ring. So closing the achievement gap would probably be my top priority, and then really close behind that would be High School 2022, which is designed to help us plan the curriculum for what our students will have to face after graduation around 2022 and after. Some of the things that they might face, some of the job opportunities that they might have may not be things that we know about right now, so to plan that curriculum, to make sure that our students are prepared would be my second, very closely behind the SEED program in priority.

Julian Waters

Obviously when we look at Albemarle County or Albemarle County public schools as a whole there are a plethora of issues that you could be that you could consider to be critical issue. For me when I look at the overarching work and challenges that we face in the county. I see the difference between our urban communities in our rural communities and often that breaks down to how do we serve disadvantaged communities and often minority groups in a way that will create equity within the school system for them. And for me, we can best achieve that by expanding public preschool access if we look at expanding public preschool access to every single student in the county, we're looking at closing the achievement gap from the root. We're looking at breaking down social physical emotional barriers that could be perpetuated from a very young age, and we're looking at really providing a much more well-rounded educational opportunity for students starting at a very early age. So my number priority on the school board will be expanding public preschool access to create equity with the county.

Jack Jouett District **Kate Acuff**

Well I've learned on my first four years that you can ever see what what's down the road but on the immediate agenda is making decisions about the high school. We have recently redesigned the curriculum for high schools which is available online and it's called a profile of a graduate 2022 so we will be rolling that out. Next fall during the 2018-19 school year but dove tailing with that is decision making about the capital about the issues of capacity in our high schools and modernization of the high school environment we have charged our consultant to look our high school students and not simply solve the Albemarle high school problem because Western Albemarle just enrolled 55 more students this year than they did last year so the capacity issues are not localized in Albemarle High School so we need to make decisions about what are the appropriate facility decisions for all of our almost 4,500 high school students.

ACHIEVEMENT: Why do we have persistent achievement or opportunity gaps? How do we ensure student success is no longer predictable by student race or any other cultural, economic or social factor?

Rio District
Katrina Callsen

That is a good question. That's why I joined Teach for America after I graduated from Yale, and one of the reasons was because of issues I had around the achievement gap. It was really personal to me. I am person of color. I come from a low-income background. I don't like the fact that students that grew up like me, look like me, don't tend to have the same outcomes. I have done a lot of research into it, and what I think is happening here in our town -- there's a recent article in the Atlantic which mentioned how- called out Charlottesville in particular -- and it mentioned how these persistent achievement gaps tend to surround around college towns. I know one existed at Yale. I want to say it was more extreme than the one we have because while I was going there, there was a very clear divide between kind of the University town and then the outside, and my personal experience, after having-especially after having knocked on- I've knocked on over one thousand doors at this point- I think it's just an issue of advocacy.

So we have a lot of people in our-every parent, every

parent- has the right to advocate as much as they can for their children, that's their right, and the problem with University towns is you have a lot of parents who are invested in education, and who know how important it is, and they advocate very thoroughly on behalf of their children, and it leaves behind swaths of the population that maybe don't have that same power. And I'm talking so long that I'm having to look at my question and say am I answering this. "How do we ensure student success is no longer predictable by student race or any other cultural, economic or social factor?" What I would like to see is less segregation of our school systems along economic and racial lines. I think the more inclusive we can be, the better. I also think the more we can speak out about what's happening, and just know that it's something that we need to confront. We have wonderful schools, we really do. We have great options, and it's very easy to focus on that to the exclusion of other things that we do need to work on.

Mary McIntyre

These are huge questions. I feel like if anybody knew the exact answers to these

questions, then we would have already implemented it across our country and hopefully would have solved the problem....It's really complicated but I think when you boil it down it comes to the fact that we have had hundreds of years of economic and social injustice in our country that has suppressed people of color and it has stopped them from really fully reaching their potential from accessing high quality education from building generational wealth through things like homeownership. And some of it is racism, some of it is discriminatory policies that have been in place that we have tried to change over time, and I think that we are certainly moving in the right direction but by no means have we completely solve those problems.

So I think that's why they are persistent. Because you can't just turn those things around overnight. We have to make them a priority, and we have to also understand that they are they are going to have to be a constant source of focus for us and give it time and be flexible in what it is that we're doing as well to try and address those things because as I said no one has figured out what the perfect solution is. So we need to,

we need to find things that are working in other places and try them here. The things that we are trying here that are not working, we need to change and we need to do other things.

So how do we ensure student success is no longer predictable by race or cultural/economic factors? One of the best ways we can do that is to just ensure equity of resources among all of our schools but also recognize that some schools have more needs than others, and they're going to need more resources, and they're going to need more support. And so we need to be sure to provide that when that is what they need. I think that in the county if you look at our housing situation, you will see that we have a fairly segregated housing situation that we have created ourselves, and so as long as the borders of our school districts follow the lines of our neighborhoods and follow the lines of our major roads, we are going to have definitely racial disparities between schools....And so you can't treat every school the same. You have to give them what they need, and you have to remain flexible, and we just are going to have to keep our focus on it for sure.

Samuel Miller District Graham Paige

Why we have that persistent gap is sort of hard to sometimes maybe explain or to talk about. One thing would be the students' background, where they are coming from. If they live in a community or if within their home, if they don't have certain advantages, like maybe access to the computer or access to good reading materials or maybe even certain types of programs that a person in a more affluent home would have access to, then those things could all lead to that achievement gap. That would probably be the main thing that causes it. And in order to sort of ensure that we can sort of overcome some of those problems, one thing [to support] would be the SEED program that I mentioned earlier. In that program we are going to try to talk or address social problems, economic problems, and academic problems that students might face. All three of those things would be factors that lead to the achievement gap. So it's really hard to identify all of the factors and to maybe address all of the factors, but they are all related to those three things: the socio problems, economic problems, or academic problems within the community and/or the home.

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Julian Waters

This is one of the one of the topics we talk about when we look at public preschool but also when we are working on the High School 2022 project. And I think that a lot of it comes down to really the opportunities that we're offering students. So when you look at students in the urban rate versus students in rural areas, rural schools versus urban schools, the number of opportunities or the amount of attention that gets paid to those schools, for me from what I've seen there is a little bit of a discrepancy and I think that that discrepancy causes us to see those fluctuations in how students are performing in a very well-funded school with a school with a lot of high quality teachers there and a rural school that might not be able to attract the same amount of money, the same amount of grants. When we look at the recently closed Yancey Elementary school down in Esmont, the southern part of the county, when I visited there last year, you know the kids were there, they're excited, they're like any other elementary kids that you would meet. But the school itself was run down. And when you compare Yancey to the Woodbrook Elementary School, which has about the same make up of economically disadvantaged students, Yancey had received no school improvement

projects, whereas Woodbrook had received if I recall correctly over 50 school improvement projects in recent years. And so when you look at that and you see well these are projects that are being made with the intention of advancing opportunities for students and creating an environment of learning environment that's healthy, and that encourages students success, I think we really need to do a better job and take a step back and see what are the discrepancies that are causing us to not make every single opportunity available to students in one school that might not be available of the other.

Jack Jouett District Kate Acuff

The only initiative that we funded out for the school year is a three-year pilot that is focused tightly on equity and access in our elementary schools. Clearly that's an issue throughout our division but we are looking at out at. The initiative contemplates looking at the social emotional, and academic development of our students we've focused on the urban ring elementary schools because over 2,000 or 6,000 plus elementary schools are located in those four schools, and also because those four schools although overall percentage of low income

students which may also overlap with race and to a large degree, unfortunately. Though although the overall percentage of low-income students is 28.8 percent last year in our schools, the percentages in our urban ring elementary schools range from 42 to 78.8 percent.

So we have not only a large number of students but also a high percentage of high concentration of students who are at risk for not achieving their potential. So we are devoting additional resources we've been doing that — focusing on academics for quite a few years we've seen some improvement and SOLs, but what we see with for example our third grade reading and math SOLs, overall we look great we've really do is a school division but 80 percent pass both the math and the reading. But if you break out the low income its more like 50 and it was 54 in math and 47 in reading so there is a consistent problem. I mean we can do what we can do it we're determined to close that gap but you know that the gap is bigger than what schools do when kids come into pre K already behind their peers. So, we are hopeful that the lessons learned from this initiative can be translated and applied across the division.

Thanks for reading!