

KIDS VOTING DURHAM

2018 DURHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Please complete and return by WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 to ckreuger@dkconcd.org or 721 Foster St. If you have questions, please call Carolyn Kreuger at 919-423-9227 or email ckreuger@dkconcd.org

You can type answers into this document in plain text (please do not use any formatting). The guide will be available online in mid-late March, and a print version will be available shortly after that.

Thank you.

NAME: Katie E. Jones

DISTRICT RUNNING FOR: Durham County Board of Education (District 3)

1. What are two specific reasons you want to serve as a leader of Durham?
 - a. *Serving as a member of the Durham County Board of Education would allow me to partner in setting district-wide school policy in areas of discipline, attendance, grading, personnel, attendance zones, and regular schools and magnet school programs. We will also set the school calendars and approve the budget for each school year. The School Board also has responsibility for setting overall goals for the school system and monitoring its progress. If necessary, the Board will adopt some curriculum and education programs. All of these are important for the success of our schools, teachers, and students.*
 - b. *As a School Board Member, I will continue to be an advocate for excellency in Durham Public Schools.*
2. Given recent and past school shootings, students are concerned about their safety. How would you improve staff and student training and what other measures would you take? How would you balance safety with student privacy and other rights?

I am reading this question after news reports of students' protest today in response to the recent school shooting. Students are talking. Are we listening? Students and teachers deserve a safe and peaceful school environment where they can excel. Teachers, students, and administrators are the eyes, ears, and voices for their school safety. All schools should be equipped with front door security where visitors must "buzz in" to the office before entering the school, sign-in upon entry, have their picture taken, and be given a visitor's pass. A school-specific plan to secure other entrance/exit doors should be developed, implemented, and followed; with continual surveillance of these areas. Since it has been determined that shooters often inform someone of their intent, there must be an anonymous and confidential pathway for students and parents to share information that may identify a possible shooter with authorities without fear of retaliation or being considered a snitch. Individual students can be taught to show self-control. The current emphasis is on possibly arming teachers with guns. However, I would prefer that teachers be allowed to continue to be vigilant in teaching our students rather than constantly scanning the environment for a potential shooter.

3. Often, there are racial and other disparities in suspensions in Durham Public Schools (DPS). How would you support the new Equity Affairs department and other ways to address this? How would you fund these efforts?

African American students are reported to be expelled or suspended more than their peers. White student are suspended for behaviors such as smoking or vandalism while African American students are suspended for actions such as talking back. Jason Langberg, supervising attorney for Advocates for Children Services, a project of Legal Aid of North Carolina investigated the racial inequity in student suspensions in Wake County. An analysis of discipline data, found that black students in the county's schools were suspended five times as often as their White peers. However, there is no evidence to suggest that black students act up more often or more severely than white students. The data support that this is

true in other school districts. The Equity Affairs District Plan is targeted for 2017-2020. The Family Academy sessions where parents and guardians will learn about anti-bias, racial equity, and methods for advocacy, are a positive. Goal four denotes grant funding for the District. In the interim, the focus should be hiring more school counselors and effectively utilizing established mentoring programs. District-wide staff development on cultural awareness and sensitivity would be helpful in this area.

4. How do you think Durham Public Schools can better talk about consent and reproductive health and safety with their students? Do you think the current education program DPS offers is adequate?

I think that Durham Public Schools nurses and parents should be consulted about this matter. I do not know enough about the current education program offered by DPS and therefore will not make a statement about whether it is adequate. We live in a diverse area of hospitals and universities where professionals are available to offer their support in consent and reproductive health and safety.

5. How do you plan to find and keep effective and qualified teachers, and what role do you see students playing in that evaluation?

Work collaboratively with all students, teachers, administrators, and parents to make Durham Public Schools the place where every teacher wants to work!

Provide teachers with the resources, schedules, and school-specific staff development to meet the needs of their students.

Provide opportunity for students, teachers, administrators, and parents to be active partners in a safe, peaceful, and productive learning environment.

Be an advocate for teacher salary to be competitive with other professionals and states so that teachers are not having to work part-time afterschool jobs.

6. What issues influenced your decision to run for school board this year?

I have lived in Durham since 1971. After working with Durham Public Schools since 1989, I retired. Our children attended and graduated from Durham Public Schools. I loved teaching, helping students excel, mentoring new teachers, and being an advocate for the teaching profession. I am concerned that some citizens do not consider Durham Public Schools to be an excellent place for their child(ren) to learn and be career ready and college ready. Serving as a member of the Durham County Board of Education would allow me to help in areas that benefit students, teachers, administrators, and parents of all DPS schools.

7. If you could have any super power, what would it be and why?

My super power would allow me to instantly discover the good in each person. I would like to have the power to target this good in each person and use it to make the world a safe and peaceful place for everyone to live, work and have fun.



KIDS VOTING DURHAM

721 FOSTER STREET, DURHAM, NC 27701

919.560.7321

KIDSVOTINGDURHAM.ORG * INFO@KIDSVOTINGDURHAM.ORG

