

BizPac 2008 Candidate Information

Name: Laurie McCaulley _____ Phone 256-533-5446/ cell 256-473-7855

Home Address: 313 South Plymouth Road, Huntsville, AL 35811

Public Office You Are Seeking : Huntsville City School Board District 1

Campaign Address P.O.BOX 3725, Huntsville, AL 35810

Education: Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies

Work Experience: I have had over 14 years as a parent involvement coordinator for Title I schools. I began working with Second Mile Development as their community parent coordinator and later joined Huntsville City Schools as the parent coordinator for Johnson High School.

Community Involvement I am currently the Alabama PTA state president, a National PTA Board of Director, a member of the Alabama State Children's Policy Council, a member of the Alabama Department of Education Superintendent Advisory Committee, Appointed to Governor's Commission for Quality Teachers.

Past president of Huntsville Council of PTAs, J.O. Johnson PTSA, Davis Hills Middle School PTSA.

Previous Political Experience: I ran for Huntsville City School Board District 5 in 2004.

Campaign Organization (staff and key volunteer leaders) There are no official staff at this time. Carolyn Ford is my campaign manager, Patricia Cook, Myra Wright, Annette Logan, Marsha Stewart are volunteer leaders.

Are you a graduate of the Committee of 100's Political Training Institute? No

Have you received any other political training? Please describe. Yes, in a previous run for school board. It was a true learning experience.

Are you a graduate of the Leadership Huntsville-Madison County program? Yes

How much money have you raised to date for your campaign? \$900.00

2008 BizPac Interviews Huntsville Board of Education Candidate Survey Questions

- 1. Why are you running for this office and what do you hope to accomplish during the next four years?** I am running for this office because I want to bring those who shape the policies with those who experience the policies. During the next four years I will strive to unite Huntsville City Schools system by encouraging the board members to embrace the dynamics of difference and accept the challenge of change. Huntsville City Schools can no longer afford to be complacent with “pockets of excellence.”
- 2. What are your ideas to ensure stable long-term funding for Huntsville City Schools?**
I welcome having this dialog with my constituents on how to secure stable revenues for our schools; together we can construct a plan acceptable to the community.
- 3. What do you see as the most urgent needs for academic improvement in the school system and how would you address them?** In my observations the most urgent needs for academic improvement in the school system are acquiring quality resources, lowering the student to teacher ratio in the most challenged schools, promoting meaningful parent involvement and securing community ownership for the schools.

My first goal is to make sure every child in our school system has an effective teacher and that teacher has the quality resources they need to teach their class. This objective can be met by assuring the Professional Educators Performance Evaluation (PEPE) is properly administered and followed. Secondly, the hiring and recruiting procedures need to be streamlined to attract new and nontraditional teachers. Thirdly, there must be quality resources for our teachers to access such as smart boards in every class to the simplest things as sufficient textbooks.

- 4. How would you address the Huntsville City School system’s need for new, improved and expanded facilities to accommodate current and expected growth? Do you support consolidation of some schools to reduce facility costs and maximize resources?** I fully support the recommendations of the facility committee Dr. Moore commissioned to address this issue-- especially those targeting consolidation of under utilized schools.
- 5. Do you support implementation of Huntsville City Schools Strategic Plan developed by local citizens in 2000? Why or why not?** Yes, I was a member of the Parent Involvement Strategic committee; I know when the community is involved it takes ownership in the project.
- 5. What impact do you believe the quality of our local schools has on economic development and how can it be strengthened?** I believe the better our schools are the more marketable our city becomes. This can come to reality as soon as we can boast, “all of our schools are excellent.”
- 6. How important to you is full implementation of the Alabama Reading Initiative and Alabama Math, Science & Technology Initiative in Huntsville City Schools?**

It is important because the students who have had access to these programs score higher on tests than their peers who have had these resources extended to them.

7. **What role do you see the business community playing in improving Huntsville City Schools?** I see the business community taking ownership in our schools by investing time, personnel and other additional resources to make sure every child's potential is reality.
8. **What can the school system do to improve workforce development and technical education for its students?** Huntsville City school system should form a more meaningful partnership with our community and technical colleges to promote careers that are relevant to our students' future.
9. **Would you support consolidation of any school services or facilities with other local school systems? If so would you consider a joint technical school, International Baccalaureate School, and/or at-risk school with Madison County and/or Madison schools? Do you see other opportunities for shared facilities or services?** I would support consolidation of a joint technical school or International Baccalaureate School with Madison County if all of Huntsville City students have equal access to it. Also, I can see the opportunity for a specialty K-12 on the northern borders of Huntsville City and Madison County.
10. **How would you compare the roles of superintendent and board members? How would you work to improve cooperation with other board members and the superintendent?** I would compare the role of the superintendent and the board members by stating the superintendent is responsible for day- to- day operations and the academia of the school system; the board is responsible for the policies and procedures that govern the operations of the school system. The board is also responsible in making sure the superintendent carries out the directives of the board. In that the board should provide "a community vision" of the school system to the superintendent to bring to fruition.
To improve cooperation with other board members, I would advocate for the board to have conversations with each other about our shared vision of HCS than identify what obstacles are in the way of us achieving this vision then work together to eliminate these barriers.
11. **What in your opinion is the appropriate role of the Huntsville Education Association in strengthening local public education? Do you support collective bargaining for public school employees?** In my opinion the Huntsville Education Association should focus on making sure their members have the proper credentials, quality resources and a working atmosphere conducive for teaching that will inspire learning.
12. **Give an example when you believe you did the right thing, but the decision may have cost you votes.** I had a situation in which I could have use some unfavorable information but in good conscience I chose not to.