

**League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area
Fall 2007 Voters' Guide**

General Election – November 6, 2007

**Questionnaire for Candidates Qualified for the
Fairfax County School Board**

Candidate's Name as listed on the Ballot Stephen M "Steve" Hunt

Biography: 50-word maximum – occupation, education, experience, qualifications, etc.

- At-large School Board member
- Retired Naval Officer
- Senior systems analyst
- Duke University Civil Engineering
- Middle School Boys Leadership Conference speaker
- American Legion Vice Commander and Scout sponsor representative
- Past chairman Fairfax County School Health Advisory Committee
- Past youth Director
- F-14 Instructor

Questions: 300-word maximum, divided among the following four questions:

Question 1: What is the greatest challenge facing the Fairfax County Public Schools? How would you address it?

The greatest challenge is to recognize the changing demographics in Fairfax County and adjust the instruction to ensure that all children have a solid foundation of basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics prior to being moved through the system. I have been addressing this by focusing the staff on the data that shows that FCPS is not sufficiently addressing the needs of these children. I have been stressing the need to ensure that children are at grade level in reading before being advanced. I have supported accountability that reveals how FCPS is performing compared to other districts.

Question 2: What would be your priorities for the use of increasingly limited school budget funds?

Investing in instruction that is scientifically proven to show results, training staff to use techniques that have proven to be effective and assessment tools that direct teachers to what each student is doing well and to where he/she needs support.

Question 3: Do you favor changing school and transportation schedules: To provide a later start time for middle and high schools? To provide a

full school day on Mondays for all elementary school students?

I support an in-depth evaluation with the goal of starting high and middle schools later while minimizing any adverse impacts on the community so that we align the educational time with the scientifically shown optimum time for teenagers to be in school. I believe that it is worth the investment of time and additional transportation costs to make it happen. As a part of finding a common sense solution to adjusting school times, I open to discussing changing the Monday elementary school day as long as teacher planning time is protected.

Question 4: What other school-related issue would you like to discuss?

The indicators in the new Board accountability methods must be measurable, comparable and truly reveal if the Board’s goals are being achieved. The current set of indicators are inadequate and unless the Board members understand this and hold the Superintendent to real measurements of success, there will be no accountability and FCPS will continue to slide farther back in the Virginia state rankings in reading and other foundational skills. (69)

What is the best way for voters to obtain more information on your campaign:

SteveHunt.org Steve@SteveHunt.org 703-502-0633
Website **Email Address** **Telephone**

I agree that the answers to these questions may be used by the League of Women Voters in disseminating information about me and my position on the issues that are the subject of this questionnaire. I understand in meeting its obligation to provide information to voters that the League may use these answers, unedited, in multiple media, including but not limited to print and web sites.

Candidate's Signature

Date