

Bradshaw

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**SUPPORT SCHOOLS NOW**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR JAMES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CANDIDATES

**Please answer each question below and EXPLAIN your answers in a DETAILED manner:**

1. Will fully funding WJC Schools' operating and capital budgets as proposed by the WJC School Board be your top priority? If not, why not?

RESPONSE:

[Andy Bradshaw] The budgetary role of the Board of Supervisors is to balance the resources of the community with the varied services required or expected to be provided by the local government. No single service, not even education or public safety, is entitled to absolute priority, exempt from balancing with others. My record shows the priority that I give to the school budgets.

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2. Are you committed to providing funding to WJC Schools so that teachers' salaries (as well as salaries of other support staff such as teacher assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, etc.) are highly competitive with divisions in our region of the state as well as divisions across the state in areas with financial resources similar to our own (as measured by the state's "composite index")?

RESPONSE:

[Andy Bradshaw] I am committed to providing funding so all school employees are compensated fairly and competitively. If distant communities with a similar "composite index" do not, in fact compete for WJCC employees, their pay scales are irrelevant for purposes of being competitive, but are a factor in determining if compensation is fair.

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3. Are you committed to providing funding to WJC Schools so that schools are fully staffed and space is available (primarily in permanent buildings, not trailers) to keep class sizes down

RESPONSE:

[Andy Bradshaw] I have always done so. In return, I expect the schools to more accurately project school populations and more equally distribute students among schools. Small class size loses its attraction if it is only an average between under utilized and overcrowded classrooms. It is time for additional community discussion to reaffirm or modify our commitment to any particular class size goal. It may well be that (1) technology can enhance the learning environment so that larger classes will still offer an equally successful educational experience or (2) the growing number of students with social, medical, emotional or mental challenges may mean we should aim for still smaller classes.

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4. How will you determine how much funding to provide to WJC Schools' operating and capital budgets? What factors will be part of your decision making process? Do you believe that the school division spends funds effectively and efficiently or do you believe there is significant wasteful spending?

RESPONSE:

[Andy Bradshaw] The determination is not based on a formula. Some of the factors include the quality of the budget presentation, the evidence of long term planning in the budget, the evidence of effective an efficient use of funds in prior years, community consensus, competing community needs, revenue resources and state contributions.

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5. What is your vision of the relationship that should exist between the Board of Supervisors and the School Board? What is your perception of the relationship that exists today? If elected, would you change this relationship that exists? If so, how?

RESPONSE:

[Andy Bradshaw] My vision of the relationship remains one of collaboration. I believe I have made progress towards that goal in the last four years. One of the principles of successful collaboration is that each party recognize and appreciate the goals and constraints of the other. I have not sufficiently conveyed to all School Board members the goals and constraints under which I act. The roles and dynamics between the

the School Board and Superintendent have changed in the last three years and I will spend more time building a collaborative relationship with the Superintendent.

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6. Under what conditions should the Board of Supervisors direct educational policy by placing conditions on funding?

RESPONSE:

[Andy Bradshaw] I can think of no normal circumstances under which the Board of Supervisors should direct educational policy by placing conditions on funding.

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7. Are you willing to acquire property for school sites using eminent domain if necessary? If so, under what conditions would you utilize eminent domain? If not, why not?

RESPONSE:

[Andy Bradshaw] I have done so. Acquisition by eminent domain should only be used as a last resort. By acquiring and designating sites for schools well before they are needed, I have eliminated the need to consider eminent domain within the foreseeable future.

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8. In the most recent budget cycle do you think the Board of Supervisors provided too little funding, too much funding or just the right amount of funding for the schools? In light of the recent \$2.8 million shortfall in the county budget, should the schools be held harmless or should the schools be made to return funds?

RESPONSE: [Andy Bradshaw] I believe the funding amount struck the correct balance between educational needs and other community needs within the resources the citizens were willing to have spent for all local government services. Neither the schools nor any other agency or department should be held harmless in a budgetary shortfall. We have identified funding cuts and carryover funds to cover the budget shortfall without affecting school operations or other government services.

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9. Do you support the school division's efforts to expand preschool opportunities for at-risk students? Would you support with additional county funds local efforts to expand preschool opportunities even further in collaboration with the school division, private preschools and the state?

RESPONSE: [Andy Bradshaw] I personally support expanded pre-school opportunities, but the level of additional funding depends upon the School Board building public consensus and support for a specific program.

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10. If recommended by the Alternative Education Task Force, would you support capital funds for a facility to house alternative education programs for students long-term suspended or expelled and those who learn better in an environment outside of regular schools?

RESPONSE: [Andy Bradshaw] Same as #9.

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11. How familiar are you in general with the operation of the school division and how well do you think you understand the challenges it faces?

RESPONSE: [Andy Bradshaw] Because my three children recently graduated from the WJCC public schools, each with a very different experience, my wife is a teacher in the WJCC public schools and has taught at three of its schools, my mother was a teacher in the WJCC public schools and I attended them from 1st through 12th grades, I have lived, eaten and breathed WJCC schools for over 50 years. Other than its Administration and Board, I understand its challenges as well as anyone in the community.