

Education Reform

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“What I really want to emphasize here is that, what council does in terms of supporting schools is financial certainty, but its economical development that’s ummm Martha Mugler was talking about earlier. Economical development is part of and one of our issues. Schools play a very very important role in that. And as economical development increases it does better then so will our schools cause that’s where the revenue come from. We have created in the last...let me get the numbers right here...we have created in the last two fiscal years over 2100 new jobs. Many of our jobs are very well paid because we have a terrific aerospace industry. But a lot of the families that move here to take those jobs are looking for high value housing that Hampton has a shortage of.”

Linda Curtis
Hampton Vice-Mayor

Hampton, over the last several years, has done their best to force as many economically disadvantaged citizens from our community as financially possible, yet still the school board reports – School Board’s Approved 2015-2016 Operating Budget, page 35 – an ever increasing number of underprivileged children in our schools.

Martha Mugler doesn’t have a clue, nor does Linda Curtis. Throwing more money at our schools is not the answer. If it were, after the tax hike from three years ago, we would see more schools accredited rather than fewer. It is the lack of leadership that is preventing our schools improvement. We need people who understand this fact. Martha Mugler and Phyllis Henry do not.

In 2009, Hampton paid to participate in an efficiency review of the schools. This service became available through state law with the state almost completely footing the bill for this service. All Hampton had to do was to listen, learn, and follow through with a portion of the suggestions...not all of them...just some. Given that the suggestions would have saved Hampton over \$40 million during a five-year period, you would think Hampton City Schools would be receptive. Hampton reported that they were, but reality is, like almost everything else they report, they fudged the compliance.

I’ve talked about the reporting of and actual compliance with recommendations before. Several stories can be found on this website, one recently. Another example of an ignored recommendation was to eliminate 6 teacher specialist. This alone would save us nearly \$2.5 million over five years. Hampton, rather than eliminate any of the teacher specialist, increased the number on staff by three and gave several some **hefty** raises this year. We also have a teacher getting paid for years of experience that would include time as a student in high school. We have Hampton refusing to participate district wide in the CEP program. I could go on and on and on. The absence of leadership at board level and ineffective management at 1 Franklin Street is what has prevented those well-to-do families from moving to Hampton, not our poor residents.