

# PTA Candidate Forum

## Notable Comments

posted – April 1, 2016

### School Board Candidates

Ann Stephens[-]Cherry

"I have spent 17 years as Executive Director of Public Relations and Marketing [at Hampton City Schools]."

Stephens[-]Cherry left her position at Hampton City Schools on August 30, 2013. That would mean, according to Stephens[-]Cherry, sometime in 1996 she came to Hampton City Schools as the Executive Director. The earliest mention of Stephens[-]Cherry as the Executive Director in the budget leadership team was the 2013-2014 budget. Is Stephens[-]Cherry wrong or the Hampton City Schools budgets? Maybe like her name, people just keep getting her job title incorrect.

---

Pamela Croom

"Our children just need hope."

Our children need an education system that won't fail them.

---

Phyllis Henry

"We have done something to renovate every one of our aging schools have had major renovation they look new inside with new lights and ceilings."

That would be other than the cafeterias with improper lights and shields, peeling paint, gapped door that allows rodents and insects in, etc.

---

Martha Mugler

"We also – the board – partnered with a company called Cenergistic. Which is a consumption and energy specialist. We saved the division \$1.7 million in a 26 month period."

I don't think so.

	2013	2014	2015
<b>Reported Total Utilities Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,537,913.73</b>	<b>\$3,179,182.43</b>	<b>\$3,183,868.46</b>

---

Erica Wagner

"Hampton currently has 60% of their students living in economically disadvantaged households....I have a high degree of sensibility and awareness of what these families are going through."

This is what is missing on the board and this is what is needed on the board.

---

# Mayor and City Council Candidates

Donnie Tuck expressed how the council and school board members need to get together more often other than when the council wants to burden the citizens with an unnecessary tax hike. The last time was in 2013, according to Tuck.

George Wallace implied Tuck's scenario was **bs** and that council members do get together with school board members more often. It's called the "buddy system". Funny thing is, if it were occurring as Wallace said, then one council member – Tuck – and one school board member - ? – haven't fulfilled their commitment to this program.

The difference between Tuck and Wallace...Tuck points out areas of concern that need addressing while Wallace sees everything as hunky-dory. If Wallace can't see it as broken, it don't need fixin? So what if crime is up in Hampton, its up everywhere. Ummm, no it isn't and I live here not in the other crime ridden cities.

Overall, council members seem to have a very low expectation for our schools. They all seem to be happy with only 41% of our schools fully accredited. To quote Wallace – "Our schools have been very successful." Successful at what?

Finally, this is a quote from Linda Curtis, current vice mayor –

"What I want to say quickly is that, the city council's role with regards to the schools is that, we fund the school board's budget and that's it. We can't tell the school board how to spend the money."

Curtis went on to say –

"Talking about the career academies. Councilwoman Snead and I went to Nashville in October, I guess it was, to see the career academies at work."

Let me get this straight, you have no say so over the schools and how they operate, yet you and another council member, at what I presume was on Hampton's dime, took a trip to Nashville to look at schools. Seriously?!?

Maybe while in Nashville, you and Councilwoman Snead could have checked out the Nashville school lunch and breakfast program. It is 100% funded through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. In other words, all schoolchildren are eligible for free breakfast and lunch. Then if you are re-elected, during your "buddy system" meetings in a year or two or three, you could share what you learned...because Hampton School Board just doesn't get it.