

LOCAL NEWS

School Board candidates speak

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Dr. Steven Thornburg, president of Cleveland Community College, asked the following questions to school board candidates at Thursday night's candidate forum at CCC. Candidates Jack Hamrick, Terry McClain and S. Dale Oliver were not in attendance. The following answers are not exact quotes from the candidates, but instead are synopses of their answers given.

Q. One Cleveland County school now requires school uniforms for all of its students. What is your position on school uniforms and should all district schools require uniforms?

Burney Drake: School uniforms should be a schoolhouse decision.

Bob Scoggins: The decision should be left to the principal.

Shearra Miller: School uniforms should be a school-level decision.

Connie Phifer Savell: School uniforms should be a school-based decision.

Tommy Greene: It should be a school-based decision.

Richard Hooker: It should be a school-based decision.

Kenneth Ledford: School uniforms should be based on the school's and community's choice.

Q. Some Cleveland County Schools are grades K-5, K-3, grades 4-5, grades 5-6, etc. What is your position on a uniformed

grade structure for all schools in the district?

Shearra Miller: The decision of unifying the county's grade structure could come out of long-range plans and could be determined at that time.

Burney Drake: This still boils down to the individual schoolhouse's and the community's needs, but eventually this issue may have to be addressed.

Richard Hooker: The county's current configuration is working.

Connie Phifer Savell: Right now, the separate grade structures are working well. It may have to be addressed in future plans.

Bob Scoggins: "We're one school system now and I'm in favor of having uniformity across the schools."

Kenneth Ledford: The board will have to look at this issue in the future and if funds are available, he might consider conformity in this matter.

Tommy Greene: They should look at all of their data and see which structure works the best to see if they should have a uniformed structure in the future.

Q. Parents and the public are sometimes confused about where to go with district administrative offices located in multiple locations. What is your position on moving to one centralized administrative facility?

Connie Phifer Savell: It would be nice, but we need to look at what is best for the students. The issue will need to be looked at in the future.

Tommy Greene: Right now, mul-

iple locations are the best they can do. One location may be more efficient, but it would take a sizeable amount of resources to do that at this time.

Richard Hooker: We are utilizing the best of our facilities now and a centralized school district may be a possibility in the future.

Shearra Miller: It would be wonderful to have a central office, but that there is also a plus having multiple locations.

Bob Scoggins: Proposed that main administrators be located in one building and administrative assistants could stay where they are. Or, he added, "move everything into one building and bring in some mobile classrooms like we do at the schools when we get overcrowded."

Kenneth Ledford: "People would like to have the ability to go into their area, instead of having to travel 20-30 miles to get to the administrator or to have a problem resolved."

Burney Drake: "I would hope that the long-range planning board makes this a high priority." He said one central office would help communication and collaboration.

Q. There appears to still be some inequities in stipends for

teachers and administrators in the district. What do you believe should be done to address this issue?

Tommy Greene: Teachers supplements are now standardized in addition to other salaries, but added there are still some inequities among the support staff. "I think the board needs to look at what those inequities are. To deal with those inequities will cost money...It will be somewhat expensive, but I don't think that gives us an out."

Kenneth Ledford: "I think we need to standardize as much as possible...When you pay one person one amount and a person doing the same job a different amount you create problems." He said that he believes in equal pay.

Burney Drake: The backbone of any school is its support staff. "It just leads to poor morale when there are inequities in pay. The last figure I saw was that it would cost the school system \$800,000, but eventually that morale is going to catch up with us." He added that eventually they are going to have to ask the county commissioners to help them fix this problem.

Richard Hooker: Said that they support their teachers and they need to correct as much as they

can, "realizing that there is a cost to this. But because of this state of accountability with more demands on our teachers and our schools, I think we need to lead by example."

Connie Phifer Savell: "From an employee's standpoint, I think it's critical for the board to address this for morale issues, if nothing else. We need to find funds to fix this as soon as possible. People have been working the same job and they need equal pay...we're going to lose employees, if we don't fix this."

Shearra Miller: After merger, one of the first things they did was to equalize first-time employees with their supplements. "I honestly am very ashamed that we were not able to take care of our other employees in the same way." She said that this issue should be addressed. "It is going to cost a lot of money, but it's necessary."

Bob Scoggins: The answer to this is a matter of transparency. "There doesn't need to be any secrets to who makes what...If everybody knows what the person beside him makes then somebody needs to explain the difference. That goes for all discretionary spending by our board and our administration."

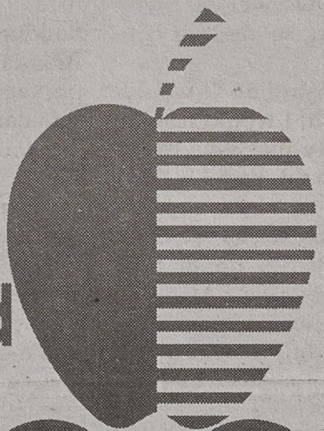
Moore named to committee

Rep. Tim Moore (R-Cleveland County) has been appointed to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee by the Speaker of the House. This is the oversight committee for administrative law issues. The committee mainly deals with the Office of Administrative Hearings and the Rules Review Commission, but all rules adopted or proposed by any state agency are subject to review by this committee. The committee is charged with overseeing the administrative rulemaking process and the contested case process in State government. As

one of only ten House members on the committee it is a prestigious appointment to a committee that yields a great deal of power in state government.

Rep. Moore said: "I truly appreciate this appointment by the Speaker of the House. This is a committee which has the responsibility to ensure that state agencies are adopting reasonable rules and regulations. I hear concerns from constituents and businesses about over-regulation at times. I will approach the state's rulemaking authority with my conservative 'less government' philosophy while serving on this committee."

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the Children...
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**Richard
Hooker**

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