

**Welcome to the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Board of Education Candidates' Forum
Sponsored by the CHCCS PTA Council, the Chapel Hill-Carrboro NAACP
Education Committee and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chapter of PAGE.**

In this handout you will find:

- Forum Schedule (Page 1)
- Questions for Candidates (Page 2)
- Candidate statements (Pages 3-5)
- Information about the PTA Council, NAACP Education Committee and Chapel Hill PAGE (Page 6)

Forum Schedule

7:05 – Introduction

7:10 – Questions for Candidates, Part 1

7:50 – Audience turns in questions on index cards to volunteers who will collect them.

8:15 – 5-minute break. At the conclusion of the break, readers of questions selected for Part 2 will be called to the front by the moderator.

8:20 – Questions for Candidates, Part 2

8:55 – Candidate Conclusions

Question #	2 min	2 min	2 min	1 min	1 min	1 min
1	Barrett	Bedford	Burroughs	Castellano	Kelley	Streater
2	Burroughs	Streater	Bedford	Kelley	Barrett	Castellano
3	Bedford	Castellano	Streater	Barrett	Burroughs	Kelley
4	Streater	Kelley	Castellano	Burroughs	JBedford	Barrett
Moderator makes announcement to turn in index cards to the volunteers who are collecting them.						
5	Castellano	Barrett	Kelley	Bedford	Streater	Burroughs
6	Kelley	Burroughs	Barrett	Streater	Castellano	Bedford
5- Minute Break Questions from the floor. 1 minute per candidate for each question.						
	1 min	1 min	1 min	1 min	1 min	1 min
7	Bedford	Castellano	Streater	Barrett	Burroughs	Kelley
8	Burroughs	Streater	Bedford	Kelley	Barrett	Castellano
9	Barrett	Bedford	Burroughs	Castellano	Kelley	Streater
10	Kelley	Burroughs	Barrett	Streater	Castellano	Bedford
11	Castellano	Barrett	Kelley	Bedford	Streater	Burroughs
Lightning Round Questions						
Conclusions	Streater	Kelley	Castellano	Burroughs	Bedford	Barrett

About the Moderator

Dr. Reginald Hildebrand

Reginald Hildebrand is an Associate Professor of African American Studies and History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is author of *The Times Were Strange and Stirring: Methodist Preachers and The Crisis of Emancipation* (Duke University Press, 1995). His research focuses on the period of Emancipation and Reconstruction, although he is currently working on a collection of essays entitled "*Engaging Blackness: Body, Mind, and Spirit; the Perspectives of Malcolm X, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Howard Thurman.*" He has served as Interim Director of the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History at UNC - Chapel Hill, and now serves as interim director of the Institute of African American Research at that university. He is Co-Chair of the North Carolina Freedom Monument Project, a trustee of the North Carolina Humanities Council, and a member of the Board of the Paul Green Foundation. He is also a member of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, and of the Advisory Board for the North Carolina Historical Review. Professor Hildebrand received his BA and MA from Howard University and his PhD from Princeton. He makes his home in Durham.

Questions for the Candidates - Part 1

The following questions were selected from the more than 75 submitted online by the public prior to the forum. We thank all community members who submitted questions. If your question was not selected, please consider submitting it on an index card tonight.

1. Many parents feel that the communication between them, the district and the Board is lacking. As an example, when a member of the public comes to comment at a Board meeting, there is no feedback – no follow-up questions are asked by the Board to clarify their understanding, no comments are made, and no contact information is obtained from the constituent. This is correct parliamentary procedure, but it is hardly a model for effective dialogue. **Would you be willing to attend regular, periodic meetings sponsored by the PTA Council where an open, back and forth discussion could take place on issues of parent, teacher and student concern?**
2. As you may know, African American/Hispanic students are lagging behind their counterparts in academic achievement at alarming rates across the country. **Please explain what you feel are the needs, challenges, and/or barriers that impact this populations overall achievement in Chapel Hill/Carrboro schools. If your response to this question includes multiple strategies, how would you rank them in importance? In other words, what should our schools focus on first to improve the achievement of these students.**
3. Thanks to No Child Left Behind, American school districts, including ours, focus intensely on the percentage of students that are proficient on end-of-grade tests. North Carolina's 8th grade math test ranks 40th most rigorous in the nation. **If 100% of Chapel Hill-Carrboro students scored proficient on the 40th most rigorous test in a country whose math education is ranked 24th in the world, would you consider our district successful? What goals, other than 100 percent proficiency, should our district strive for? How should we measure progress toward these goals? What should the board to do make sure these other goals are taken as seriously as bringing all students up to minimum standards?**
4. Over the past few years, the Board has developed policies around bullying and Honors/Hybrid classes – among many others. We know from the news over the last few months that the implementations of these policies in particular have fallen somewhat short of the goals for them. And, in fact, it has come to light that the policies may be seen more as a suggested course of action than as a requirement set by the Board. **Do you agree that communication and faithfulness in implementation of Board policy decisions are areas of possible improvement and, if so, what will you seek to change in the future?**
5. **What types of support, monitoring of best practices, gathering of efficient data and follow through are you aware of in other communities throughout the nation that are producing positive academic results for young African American/Hispanic students, and how can our schools better partner with those communities to create & provide an effective support network for students?**
6. Investment capital, and over the past decade, jobs, have increasingly flowed to where the best and most cost effective skills reside, wherever in the world the knowledge workers may be. **What will you do to enable CHCCS students to effectively compete in the global marketplace? What changes will you make to increase STEM skills, creativity and innovation? How will you overcome the inherent and systemic challenges that may prevent these necessary changes from being implemented right away to make an impact on our future workforce and economic prosperity?**

Questions for the Candidates – Part 2

During Part 2 of the forum, we will ask the candidates questions submitted by YOU, the audience. Please write your question(s) legibly on index cards and be ready to turn them in by the conclusion of Question 4. If you would like to read your question, please print your name on the index card. If you would rather someone else read your question, do not put your name on the card. Index cards will be collected at the conclusion of Question # 4 above.

Please understand that we are likely to receive more questions than we have time for. We will collect all questions that are submitted at the forum and post them on the PAGE, NAACP and PTA Council Listservs. We also encourage you to contact the candidates directly and ask them your unanswered questions, or speak with them tonight after the forum.

Kris Castellano

My name is Kris Castellano and I am excited to be running for a seat on the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools School Board. I have been a triangle resident for the past 20 years, but have resided in Chapel Hill for the past 12. I am married with 3 children; one in high school and two in middle school. The younger 2 children are students in the Spanish Dual Language program.

I have been actively involved in our schools for ten years. I started as a classroom volunteer and room parent and have added other volunteer activities such as coach write and reading partners. I am entering my 8th year as an SIT member, encompassing 3 different schools. I have been a chair of SIT 4 of those years. This has allowed me to gain opportunities to serve on various district committees and have dialogue with our administrators and board of education and gain a deeper understanding of a variety of important education focus topics. My career as a Physical Therapist requires me to effectively communicate and lead and teach a variety of patient populations. I am confident this skill will serve me well and position me well to represent our diverse community members.

It is with these years of experience, knowledge, and interest, that I feel qualify me to contribute to our broad school community. I have been, and will continue to be, an advocate for all children. I will work to improve accountability and professional development. I will strive to ensure each student's growth, both academically and socially, is accounted for in district decisions.

Please reference my website at Castellano4board.com. Always feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. My email is listed on the website. I am a good listener and strive to be an active contributor on our school board. I hope I can count on your vote in November.

James Barrett

<http://BarrettForSchools.com> (919) 593-0592 jcb@barrettforschools.com

<p>Child/Parent of the District</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Seawell, Phillips, CHHS in the 34 years I've lived here • Father of two current students • Regular math volunteer in classrooms for past five years • Rec-league baseball and basketball coach for many years • Member of PAGE, NAACP; my wife was secretary of the PTA Council the past two years 	<p>Advocate for Social Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Founding member of Justice United strategy and education teams • Listened to voices across our community describe their school challenges • Brought meaningful change through advocacy with all our local governments, for the benefit of all sorts of residents 	<p>Management Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 years leading software projects • Experience in analyzing technology to focus on making a real difference • Former member of church council leadership • Great with numbers—budget, data analysis
Bringing together 34 years of living Chapel Hill's values, experience in change for social justice in local governments, and an outsider's focus on analysis to the issues facing our schools.		
<p>Achievement Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need high expectations for <i>every</i> student • Community commitment and resources exist to help if we can channel them • Propose a "Gap Czar" to bring consistency, follow-through, and new ideas in Lincoln Center 	<p>Budget/Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need transparency to show that budget aligns with our priorities • Should not pit groups against one another • Focus on new ways of teaching before pushing technology; still important, but what we do with it comes first 	<p>Growth for Every Student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect every student to achieve <i>at least</i> a year's worth of learning for each year in school • Measure every priority consistently and frequently from school board through to schools and teachers • Respect for students and parents
"Whether you think that you can, or that you can't, you are usually right." - Henry Ford		



Mia Burroughs

919-932-6282 mia@miaburroughs.com www.miaburroughs.com

Twitter: [mburroughs47](https://twitter.com/miburroughs47) Facebook: <http://on.fb.me/jNfF0Q>

Vision: As a candidate and a Board member I have heard stories from parents from all walks of life about how their child appeared to be forgotten by the system. These children have come from all levels of academic need: special needs, academically gifted, and kids who just need a little extra help. Over these last four years, my highest priority has been for district leaders to find and seal cracks in the system to ensure that each student receives the best services the district can provide. I believe we have made some progress but the district must continue to ensure that our programs are implemented consistently for all students. We still have too many young people, particularly children of color and low socio-economic status, who leave our schools inadequately prepared for college or a career.

Background: I was elected to the Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools Board of Education in 2007 and currently serve as Vice Chair. My professional work is synergistic with my Board work. I have been an advocate for programs that serve young people and I served as a legislative aide to U.S. Representative Bob Edgar with responsibility for education, women's and children's issues. I am now a freelance grant writer for youth-serving, women's health, mental health and arts organizations. I graduated from Duke University in 1983 with a BA in Spanish and Political Science. My husband, two daughters and I have lived in Chapel Hill since 1995. Nearly every week of the ten years that my girls were in elementary school, I volunteered in the classroom.

Jamezetta R. Bedford, CPA

401 Knob Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

919-933-5391 Jamezetta@juno.com

I have served two years on the CHCCS Board of Education. I want to complete the open two year term in order to facilitate and support the transition to new Supt., Dr. Tom Forcella. We moved to NC in 1992 for our 5 year old daughter, Shannon, who is autistic with mental retardation. At that time, NC provide the best services in the world for people with autism. We moved to Chapel Hill-Carrboro instead of Wake (which provides better autism education) for our two sons. Jim graduated from ECHHS in 2003 and graduated from UNC medical school this May. He began his residency in psychiatry at UNC this summer. His son, Bryce is one year old, and will be attending Ephesus in a few years. His wife, Lindsay, was ASNC TOY a year ago, and taught at Ephesus for 5 years. Kevin is a junior at Appalachian. He's my wonderful average child. So I have three children from one end of the spectrum to the other. They, and now my grandson, motivate me to improve our schools. And, they epitomize that "fair is not equal or the same." My vision of our schools is to improve academic achievement, particularly for minority, low SES and exceptional children, while also making sure all students grow academically each year. We have much work to do to implement IEPs, 504 plans and properly educate students with disabilities in self-contained classrooms and in the mainstream. We have much work to do to train teachers about differentiation and gifted education. Gifted methodology and special education together provide many more "tools" that educators need for their classrooms. Candidates for the Supt position pointed out that we not only have a minority student achievement gap, we also have a global achievement gap. I'd like to see science education emphasized with the arts rather than this narrowing of curriculum and testing focus on just math and reading. That said, at the same time, literacy, and teaching students to read well by third grade is a critical priority. Why can't we integrate these? Some students need a longer day. Some students need different instruction a la NCVPS. Phoenix Academy High School wants to add night classes and we need to make that happen to graduate more students. Our Bridges program and Triumph Academy offer alternatives for student with mental health needs. Mental health services should be comprehensively offered in our schools. We have to figure out individual student needs and meet them. But, with the economic realities, we also have to also spend the time to determine what comprises a core, fundamental education and what should be funded to make sure our children are well educated and globally competitive. The adoption of the Common Core and NC Essential Standards curriculum is a step in the right direction for national measures. Dual Language and world language instruction are also key elements.

Mike Kelley

(919-442-8734; mkelley3@nc.rr.com; <http://kelley4schoolboard.blogspot.com/>).

I was initially elected to the school board in 2003 and re-elected in 2007. My family has lived in Chapel Hill since the 1990s after having initially moved to the area in 1985. Our four children have attended 8 of the district's 17 traditional schools; our youngest is now in ninth grade.

I served as chair of the board from 2009 to 2010 and vice chair from 2008 to 2009. During my eight-year tenure, I have served on a long list of committees within our district and several at the state level. Before joining the board in 2003, I was a parent school volunteer and active in other education-related organizations. I work as a physician scientist at Duke University and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to coming to Chapel Hill, I was in the US Public Health Service at the National Cancer Institute.

Vision. Every child comes to school with an expectation they will learn. My goal is to help guide the school district to maximize the educational growth of each child. Our district is a high achieving district but is each of our children growing as much as possible?

For the first time in nearly two decades, our district has a new superintendent. I have the necessary school board experience, knowledge of the district, and personal skills to facilitate this critical transition in leadership. This is an opportunity to systematically review our district through the eyes of a new educational leader and institute changes that will bring us closer to our goals.

The constrained budget for our district over the past several years has resulted in tightening of expenditures as well as a reduction of positions, which have tended to negatively impact the educational program. Our teachers and staff have strived to do more with less. I expect there to be continued fiscal austerity that will require continued critical analysis of the cost effectiveness of programs to guide the difficult budget decisions ahead. In addition, I will continue to communicate the needs of the district to local, state, and federal officials who fund our district, and to the community at large.

Our curriculum will be evolving to align with the Common Core State Standards being adopted by North Carolina and 43 other states. As part of that transition, there will also be common testing across the country. Our district, which usually performs near the top in North Carolina, will be directly comparable to other districts across the country.

It is essential to ensure our schools are safe and provide a nurturing environment for students and staff.

Annetta Streater

Candidate for Re-election
CHCCS Board of Education

It is with great pleasure that I announce my candidacy for re-election to the Board of Education for Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. I am committed to advocating for high quality education for our students.

I arrived in Chapel Hill in 1982 as a student at UNC-Chapel Hill. Since completing my education in Dental Hygiene, I have had the opportunity to engage in this community as well as communities in Canada and Connecticut. As I raise my two children, I want to be actively engaged in this community that I love so much. Whether I'm volunteering in the schools, for my church or local organizations, I fully appreciate the relationship between a community and education. We must continue to develop our children so they can be active participants and contributors to our society.

While we have challenges such as a persistent minority student achievement gap and limited financial resources, I am still encouraged that the board can establish policies and direction that provide teachers and staff with quality training and development; that provide opportunities for all children to learn and achieve at high levels; and that allow the district to be good stewards of its resources.

With your support, I will continue to bring to the Board an outlook and approach that draws upon my educational and work experiences with diverse populations. You can count on me to be the voice of those whose voices are not heard as the Board faces some of its greatest challenges.

About the PTA Council

The CHCCS PTA Council acts as an umbrella organization for all the PTA units in our district. Our mission is the same as all other PTA units: to advocate for the education, health, and success of all children and youth while building strong families and communities. The Council strives to achieve these goals by:

- Fostering synergy between the PTAs in the district so that people can share ideas, learn, and feel supported with and by others.
- Providing a common voice and strength in numbers when approaching legislative bodies and influencing public opinion in support of the PTA's mission.
- Providing education about district-wide topics that would be helpful for PTA members across the district or perhaps impractical for each school to do.

The voting membership of the PTA Council is comprised of an executive board of a president, vice president, treasurer and secretary; all PTA unit presidents; and all designated PTA unit Council representatives. Any parent or teacher is welcome to participate in the PTA Council.

Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Chapel-Hill-Carrboro-City-Schools-PTA-Council/161508003868908>

For more information, see www.ptacouncil.com.

About the Chapel Hill/Carrboro NAACP Education Committee

The Chapel Hill/Carrboro NAACP Education Committee is dedicated to the belief that all of our children deserve the best educational experience possible and that they all can achieve academic excellence. The Education Committee has worked to promote an expectation of academic excellence for all students, to build cooperative alliances, and to identify and eliminate educational policies or practices that hinder our children's academic success.

The overall vision of the Chapel Hill/ Carrboro NAACP Education Committee is to ensure that all students have access to an equal and high-quality public education by eliminating all education related racial and ethnic disparities. Through advocacy training, policy development and guidance, building collaborative networks, and direct action, the Chapel Hill/Carrboro NAACP Education Committee works to accomplish this vision with assistance from the National NAACP, regional directors, state, local education committee chairs and various local groups as well as our Partners in Education.

About PAGE

PAGE is a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization of parents, educators, and others interested in supporting and encouraging the development of gifted students by:

- Promoting an understanding of the characteristics and needs of gifted students
- Fostering appropriate educational opportunities for them at home, school and in the larger community

PAGE Advocacy Efforts Include:

- Collaborating with local schools to improve educational experiences and outcomes for gifted children
- Providing a support network for those interested in the education of gifted students
- Helping parents navigate the complex world of gifted education in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
- Informing parents, educators, the CHCCS Board of Education and the community at large about the needs of gifted children and the benefits of meeting the educational, social and emotional needs of ALL students
- Facilitating connections to educational resources for parents and educators
- Advocating for NC legislation and funding to support AG education.

Website

www.ChapelHillPAGE.org

Chapel Hill PAGE Listserv

PAGE-CHCCS-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Contact

info@ChapelHillPAGE.org