

Candidates for District School Board – District 1  
 Responses to League of Women Voters of Collier County Education Fund / eBella Magazine Survey  
 June 2010

<b>Question 1:</b> Communication is an area of importance to parents, staff, students and the community at large. What specifically would you like to see done to foster more and better communication between the school district and Collier County residents?		
<b>Patricia Carroll</b>	<b>Eric Cox</b>	<b>Rosanne Winter</b>
<p>The district has made major improvements in communications with parents through our Angel website. Parents have daily access to their student's grades and a direct method to e-mail teachers. We have automatic phone systems that call parents with important messages. This has been a priority for me.</p> <p>However, the district falls short in communicating with the community. That is one of the reasons I promoted a strategic planning process which includes several months of input and involvement from parents, community and staff. We started this process last fall. As a result, the first goal in our new strategic plan is:</p> <p>Communications            Goal: To provide clear, timely information and tools that keep the community informed, and engage them in the District's mission.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Engage our diverse community by building strategic partnerships and platforms for communication.</li> <li>b. Collier County must utilize web sites, home/school technology programs, teacher/parent conferences, mailings, phone calls, and e-mails to improve the school district's communication with parents.</li> <li>c. Programming on the education channel should focus on issues of highest community interest; program schedule should be advertised in the Naples Daily News.</li> </ol> <p>* Provide communication support to assist individual schools in communicating with the district, other schools, parents, students, staff, businesses, and the media.</p>	<p>Board members should consider having a site based meeting within their individual districts each quarter, selecting a host school and inviting all stakeholders to participate in an open forum discussion. Board members should want to know what their constituents are thinking. I do!</p>	<p>Collier County must utilize web sites, home/school technology programs, teacher/parent conferences, mailings, phone calls, and e-mails to improve the school district's communication with parents.</p> <p>Programming on the education channel should focus on issues of highest community interest; program schedule should be advertised in the Naples Daily News.</p>

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<p><b>Patricia Carroll (Cont'd.)</b></p> <p>* Leverage district resources to enhance two-way communication between the district, schools, parents, and the community.</p> <p>The community will continue to be involved in the implementation of this goal and I will hold the superintendent accountable for being receptive to their ideas and recommendations. I will also hold him accountable for full implementation of the goal.</p>		
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<p><b>Question 2:</b> The Superintendent has stated that the time for public input into District business is during the meetings of the strategic planning committees and the School Board meetings should be business meetings and should not be used as a public forum. What is your position on eliminating public participation/comments at Board meetings?</p>		
<p><b>Patricia Carroll</b></p> <p>While I serve on the board, public participation and comments will always be part of school board meetings. Input from speakers assists the board in making better informed decisions. However, I support establishing guidelines for public participation during business meetings in order to maintain decorum and a professional setting.</p> <p>Creating opportunities for public forums outside of board meetings provides for the conversational participation people desire. I've organized town hall meetings in my district and have attended PTO and School Advisory Council meetings. Workshops are also a place for relaxed conversation with public speakers and the board needs to provide more public workshop opportunities.</p>	<p><b>Eric Cox</b></p> <p>We should expand our community comments and participation in open public forum at an appointed board meeting. This practice would tend to eliminate being in the dark. We need to listen and act upon the many profitable suggestions and recommendations given us by our strategic planning committees.</p>	<p><b>Rosanne Winter</b></p> <p>Public participation/comments at school board meetings should continue. However, board meetings are the ONLY time members are allowed to conduct business and discuss school issues with each other. Time is precious, therefore public comments should be held to a set time frame not to exceed thirty minutes.</p>

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<b>Question 3:</b> What changes in Florida’s public education system would you like to see?		
<b>Patricia Carroll</b>	<b>Eric Cox</b>	<b>Rosanne Winter</b>
<p>Florida needs to move away from placing too much emphasis on FCAT. We need to maintain FCAT as one way to hold schools accountable for educating all students. However, we need additional methods for evaluating student achievement. I support the addition of state developed end-of-course exams as a method to evaluate student achievement and teacher effectiveness.</p> <p>High school classes should not start at 7:15 a.m. Research shows teenagers do not function well that early in the morning. By moving high school start time to 9:00, some athletic practices, clubs and non-academic activities can be held before school. I'm convinced that such a change will increase student performance. Five or six years ago the school board considered changing high school start times, but parents objected because of concerns about the</p> <p>Potential impact on sports, teenage work schedules, and the availability of high school students to baby sit younger siblings. I support bringing this issue back for discussion.</p> <p>The school calendar needs revision. During an extended summer vacation, students lose a significant percentage of the educational advancement they made during the previous school year. The effect is even greater for students who come from homes where English is not the first language. If we are going to progress students toward achieving at grade level, or keep performing students from regressing, summer break should be shortened and vacation days should be distributed more equally throughout the year.</p> <p>Maybe it is time to develop optional graduation requirements for students</p>	<p>Currently state requirements dictate the hiring of a “highly qualified teacher” as part of district policy. Stringent requirements for hiring a Superintendent need to be implemented and adhered to without question. We expect the best from our schools; why not the Board and the Administration? You deserve what you expect!</p>	<p>Restore funding for cuts made during the past three years, restore the optional district 2-mill capital outlay levy, eliminate new/existing unfunded mandates, provide schools with the means to assess student progress against state standards <i>throughout the school year</i> so that teachers can adjust instruction to meet student needs.</p>

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<p><b>Patricia Carroll (cont'd.)</b></p> <p>who want to enter the work force immediately after high school. A new state law requires all students to take Algebra II to graduate. Shouldn't students not going to college have the option to take Statistics and Probability or an investment and business math course instead of</p> <p>Algebra II? Options for our most brilliant students should also be available. Making the brightest students sit in a class they do not need or which does not benefit them, just because of state attendance requirements, stifles and interferes with the educational advancement of our most talented.</p> <p>The teacher evaluation system must be improved. Over 90% of Florida teachers received a satisfactory rating, but the data shows student achievement falls short of producing the education system Florida needs. A disconnect exists between student achievement and how teachers are evaluated. If we are to provide every class a highly effective and qualified teacher, a method of accurately evaluating teachers must be developed.</p> <p>I support eliminating tenure. It is a problem that ineffective teachers remain in the classroom at the expense of student achievement because of tenure.</p> <p>I've observed a disconnect between Florida's State Legislature and the educational community. The educational community needs to embrace the fact that some parts of public education need to change. If we are not part of the conversation on education reform, then reform will continue to be dictated by the legislature with undesired results.</p>		
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