

CCPTA 750 word essay

Alan Howze

Meeting the needs of our students and the challenge of rising school enrollment is the biggest issue facing our community, and it is one of the main reasons I am running for the County Board.

No other candidate in this race, or current County Board Member, has children currently in Arlington's schools. We need a voice on the County Board of a parent with children currently in APS. As the father of three young children, I will be that voice. **I am committed to keeping Arlington schools among the best and finding solutions to overcrowding.**

Two of my children attend Tuckahoe Elementary – in third grade and Kindergarten – and our youngest daughter will start school in two years. My wife, Pam Howze, is an educator and current PTA President, and I am the product of Arlington Public Schools, attending Drew school as a child.

I am proud to have the endorsement of Arlington Education Association (APAC), and the support of many current and former School Board members and community leaders, who know my commitment to our children, our teachers and to a great education for all our students. You can read more about why the educators endorsed me at www.alanhowze.com.

Providing for our Schools: Our superb public schools are a key part of our community's success. As a County Board Member, one of my top priorities will be to ensure that Arlington's educators and students have the classroom space and resources they need. This includes evaluating the revenue sharing agreement to see if adjustments need to be made to ensure that enough funding is available to meet the rise in enrollment. I will work collaboratively with the School Board to find innovative, durable, and fiscally sound solutions to the challenges that APS faces.

I also support continuing Arlington's investments in transit, because it has created a vibrant commercial sector which provides nearly half of the tax revenue in the County. That revenue allows us to invest more in our schools than other communities. To meet the costs associated with rising enrollments it is important that we also continue to invest in transit and infrastructure that drives economic growth.

Seats for Students: We have been actively involved in the capacity planning process. My children attend one of the most overcrowded schools in the APS system, and the challenge of meeting our capacity needs is one that I am acutely aware of and intensely interested in solving. Overcrowding is a long-term issue, and we need to consider all options, both traditional and new.

We need to create an integrated ten-year plan that identifies how we – as a community – will meet the capacity needs at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Then we need to ensure that enough funding is available to meet those future needs.

I am committed to work collaboratively with the School Board to ensure we have the facilities needed by students and educators to keep our school system great.

Universal Pre-K: High quality early childhood education is critically important. Currently about half of Arlington children attend APS Pre-K. We need to expand that to 100% and I will support universal pre-K for all children.

Safety, Transportation and Health: We should encourage walking and cycling, but that means that we need to have safe routes to schools for children, parents, and educators.

The rise in our youth population has meant additional demand for recreational facilities – parks, playing fields, and aquatic facilities, and **we need to continue to invest** in meet this demand. **My support for safe routes to school, for investing in our parks and open space, and protecting our environment is part of the reason why I earned the endorsement of the [Sierra Club](#).**

Arlington invests a lot in education, and it is important that we provide a strong value for our tax dollars. I support taking a hard look at “silos” in our government to identify and eliminate gaps and redundancies. For example, the County and Schools should have an integrated snow removal approach that allows schools to reopen more quickly and provides greater safety for students, parents and educators.

To provide for the future of our children, and the prosperity of our community, we must continue to invest in Arlington – in our schools and our community. If elected, our Arlington Public Schools will be at the top of my priorities. I encourage you to visit www.alanhowze.com to read more about my candidacy and I ask for your vote on **Tuesday, April 8th**.