

March 12, 2018

Gentlemen:

I received your letter in the mail. I cannot fill in the form the way you say so I copied and pasted the form to my e-mail. I am answering all questions as follows.

Russell F. Walker House District 48

MY POSITION FOR House DISTRICT 48

1 I SUPPORT raising per pupil funding for all public schools to at least the national average.

No. Costs of living in most NC areas are less than the national average. Once we increase school spending to the national average, the national average will consequently be higher. I am an engineer and don't think like everyone else. I and many others are trying to live on Social Security, have minimum wage jobs, are physically disabled, infirm or are unemployed. We simply can't afford to pay higher real estate taxes. The 2017-2018 NC budget allocated \$13,062,000,000 to Education. Isn't that enough. Scotland County in particular has the highest property tax rate of \$1.02/\$100 in North Carolina

2 I SUPPORT raising pay for public school teachers to at least the national average and reinstating master's and other relevant advanced degree pay. •Furthermore, I SUPPORT additional pay for teachers who achieve nationally recognized certifications and pay for teachers who take on additional duties and responsibilities (such as coaching or tutoring after school).

No. same general answer as #1. Further having a masters degree does not *ipso facto* improve teaching skills. Teachers have historically pursued advanced degrees with increased pay as the major factor.

3 I SUPPORT increasing the numbers of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses for all public schools to at least the recommended national ratios per pupil.

No. Same general answer as #1 in regard to averages.

4 I SUPPORT providing full public funding for pre-K for all eligible children in North Carolina.

No. Pre-K is just advanced nursery school.

5 I SUPPORT providing full funding for K-5 enhancement teachers for art, music, physical education, and world languages.

No. Lets make sure children can do 6th grade math on a sheet of paper, write legible compositions, know why the sky is blue, know what form of government (hint it is NOT a democracy), how many states we have in the US are in the US, how many continents are in the world before we worry about Art, physical education (which has nothing to do with education) etc.

6 I SUPPORT increasing per pupil funding for textbooks and other instructional resources (digital and hard copies), supplies, etc. to at least pre-recession levels.

Yes. I don't know any figures but generally I would support that.

7 I SUPPORT programs that have been demonstrated to reduce the achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students, including programs to improve public school equity, integration, and inclusion.

Absolutely not. It is integration and inclusion that have brought various groups together and has only resulted in jealousy, conflict, aggression and reduction in educational standards to the lowest common denominator. It simply never has and never will not succeed.

8 I SUPPORT fair and equitable evaluation of teachers and schools using a variety of metrics for student and teacher performance, not just standardized test scores.

Yes. But we are trying to make fair what is a very subjective system. I believe that teachers are blamed for every problem in the school systems when policies are set by federal judges, Boards of Educations etc. and teachers are only trying their best to perform under many circumstances beyond their control and not of their choosing.

9 I SUPPORT phasing out school vouchers for private schools, and ensuring that existing private schools receiving public voucher funds meet the same accountability and performance standards as public schools.

No. I believe in Freedom of Choice. **No** - what private schools do is their business and the State has no business interfering. If parents do not like a particular charter school, they are free to change their children's school.

10 I SUPPORT a moratorium on new charter schools until stronger accountability standards and better authorization mechanisms are implemented; including empowering local school boards with the ability to create charters and keep them under their governance.

Absolutely not. Competition will bring out better solutions for all.

Russell Walker Republican Candidate for House District 48