

Candidate Responses – Orange County School Board

Jim Hopkins

Question 1: Position Seeking:

JH: Orange County School Board District V

Question 2: Have You Previously Held this Position?

JH: Yes

Question 2a: If yes, for how many years?

JH: 15

Question 3: Will you be attending the August 23, 2023, Orange County Candidate Showcase?

JH: Yes

Question 4: How will you foster relationships between businesses and the school community?

JH: I have been a member of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce for over 20 years, therefore I am in a perfect position to work with the business community and the school board to achieve our mutual goals and objectives.

Question 5: Over the years, minority representation has decreased relative to administration and teaching staff. There is a growing concern among the African American community relative to the issue. What would be your proposal to help bridge the gap?

JH: Fourteen years ago the Orange Superintendent of Schools formed a working group with African American pastors to address similar concerns. I would suggest we need to reconstitute that working group as these pastors tend to be the leaders of the African American community.

Question 6: Our youth are our future. Agricultural education and organizations such as FFA plug students into the pathways available to grow, supply, and create within the agricultural sector. How would you like to see agricultural education be best supported in Orange County Public Schools? Are you in favoring of continuing these programs; what changes, if any, would you like to see? What experience do you have working with said programs?

JH: In my youth, I was involved in agriculture as my father was a high school FFA instructor. As a 4-H project, I raised, trained, and showed an Angus steer at the county fair. Currently my family owns and operates Woodbrook Farm Vineyard on a farm outside of the Town of Orange. So yes, I support Agricultural education.

Question 7: Please further explain your interest in a position with our local School Board. What is your connection to Orange County Public Schools?

JH: I am a retired school teacher and have served on the Orange School Board for 15 years. My experience translates into knowledge which will be essential as new members take their place on the School Board and Board of Supervisors.

Question 8: What is your stance on CTE education and internship opportunities in the community and how will you support these efforts?

JH: Orange High School currently offers many CTE programs but we have run out of space. A CTE building and/or high school additions are needed. I pledge to work with the School Board and the Board of Supervisors to expand our CTE curriculum.

Question 9: What do you consider to be the greatest needs of the Orange County Public Schools that the School Board can resolve? If elected, what would be your top priority?

JH: The Coronavirus completely disrupted our educational program. The lost learning over those two years was devastating. My top priority would be to work with the School Board and Superintendent of Schools to restore excellence in student achievement. We need to concentrate on the basics: reading, writing and arithmetic.
