

Sally Spencer did not answer the questions but sent the following:

SALLY SPENCER - SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT #3

My name is Sally Spencer and I am running for School Board, District #3 in the August 5th election. I have observed the present School Board carefully for the last 3 years, and I believe that I can bring experiences and skills that would benefit the board. I have 23 years of experience in both public, and private school systems, large and small. As the head of the English Department in 2 school systems, I also have School Administrative experience. In my capacity as department head, I was also responsible for setting up tutorial classes, preparation for standard testing and establishing ACT seminars and work sessions. I also worked closely with college bound students and students who would go on to vocational schools.

Four years ago, I took a job as the Executive Assistant to the President of a large multi faceted corporation; my job includes a multitude of responsibilities. My strongest points include organization and attention to detail. I am self motivated and pride myself on getting a large variety of tasks completed efficiently.

I believe that my experiences in education and the corporate world make me a good candidate for Fayette County School Board.

One of the most pressing issues our school system faces is getting good teachers and retaining them. Last year our teachers' salaries were next to the lowest in the state of Tennessee. If you compare that with the fact that the amount of money we spend per child in the system is the 12th highest in the state, it makes you wonder how this can happen. Teachers are such a wonderful group of people; they are care givers; they are devoted to children and most of all they love teaching. BUT they have families and car notes, and homes that all require a decent salary.

There are certainly many schools where teachers do not feel safe, but it IS NOT the case in Fayette County. This an amazing and tantalizing drawing card for teachers who are seeking a "teaching home." If elected, I will work to raise salaries for teachers so that they can do what they are born to do-TEACH. I no longer want to see new, energetic, talented teachers come to Fayette County to teach for a few years of experience and then move to other systems where the pay is infinitely higher.

Everyone has responsibilities that are associated with their specific job. Whether the job is janitorial, secretarial, instructional, or supervisory, all employees should be expected to fulfill all of those job requirements. Reviews of job performance should be done at least yearly or, perhaps, more frequently if needed. We need the best employees possible, and they need to do the best job possible for the Fayette County School System.

I believe that one of the most important problems facing our nation's schools is a lack of focus on core subjects. Not all students are planning to go to college; many will become mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, electricians or office workers. Many will go to trade schools, community colleges or directly into the work force, but all of our students need to be prepared to fill out applications, understand leases, pay bills and manage their own households. How can they possibly do that if they can't read well enough to understand what they are reading, if their math skills are good enough to balance a check book, or if their English skills aren't advanced enough to fill out a job application or write a letter? We are responsible for seeing that all students can be productive workers when they leave our care.

If elected on August 5th, I promise to specifically address these issues. I would certainly appreciate your vote.

