

2021 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
City of Tuscaloosa
Office: Tuscaloosa City Board of Education, Chair

Candidate:
Eric Wilson

1. What do you see as the top three issues facing the Tuscaloosa City School System? How should those issues be addressed?

- A. Getting through COVID and the negative effects COVID has had on our students – get back to five (5) days per week of learning once teachers are vaccinated; end virtual learning in all but the most special of circumstances; data study on COVID effect of scores/learning; learning supports for those children struggling the most after COVID
- B. Maintaining Fiscal responsibility and seeking new revenue streams to support specialized learning programs and revenue loss from the effects of COVID.
- C. Reading by 3rd grade level for Literacy Act compliance in Spring 2022 – continued learning supports for low achieving schools / students; intensive Summer Reading program for rising 3rd graders in Summer 2021; expand Pre-K

2. Significant community effort has been dedicated to develop and implement a comprehensive strategic plan for the Tuscaloosa City School System. Do you support the implementation of this plan? If your answer is “yes,” why is it important to do so? If your answer is “no,” how would you change the plan?

The first iteration of the Strategic Plan has already been implemented. We are currently working on Strategic Plan 2.0. Yes I support and the current Board will have input on changes and implementation.

3. What should be done to address schools labeled as “failing” by the Alabama Department of Education?

Continue the efforts of TCS in our tiered approach to schools needing additional resources; look beyond the Schools at community involvement and mentoring programs

4. What efforts would you like to see to close the education “slide” students have seen from COVID-19 disruptions?

Enhanced summer reading and math programs for struggling students [already in the works]; increased learning supports [which takes money] at all schools; re-dedication by Families of after school tutoring / learning.

5. The Tuscaloosa region is expected to have a shortage of skilled labor in future years. What is the role of the Tuscaloosa City School System in helping address that shortage?

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TCS in conjunction with our school TCTA along with West Alabama Works and other partnerships [Such as the Chamber of Commerce] continue bridging that gap and providing work ready students. Continue to support and nurture these partnerships.

6. What is your vision for the Tuscaloosa City School System in 10 years? How will you, in your role as an elected official, help make that vision a reality?

TCS in 10 years: vibrant and fully supported Pre-K program; Book Buddies [or similar program] in all our elementary schools; TCTA a flagship program providing work ready students for local industry; each and every TCS graduate is either college, work or career ready; our Teachers being on the highest end of the salary scale throughout the state; every school in our system thriving; enhanced athletic programs and facilities. My role in making this a reality – steady leadership; listening to community; think outside the box and lead the charge for new permanent revenue streams for TCS.