

2021 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE
City of Tuscaloosa
Office: Tuscaloosa City Board of Education, District 5

Candidate:
Erica Grant

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

1. COVID Impact and Exhaustion
 - making strives together to understand needs mentally from educators, parents and students
 - get back on track with education as before
2. Nutritional Services
 - striving for quality taste, more variety and healthier meals
3. Equity
4. -continue to make TCS equal across all districts
 - teacher placement
 - athletics

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 last strategic plan detailed more information about construction than education, factors that are often left out, that is very essential to our system. The new projected strategic plan is by far one of the best yet! It covers areas that normally will not be in there. It covers support of a better nutrition plan, athletic scholarships being pushed, innovative opportunities for our educators which helps with our students learning. We must think about our educators; without educators we have no schools. There is a lot in the strategic plan that will help continue to move TCS forward.

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

I personally don't acknowledge schools as failing. Another word should be used to determine if a school needs help. Schools should be measured by day to day work, not a test. A student may have a bad day and test but have straight A's in classwork. We have no failing schools in TCS, we have schools that need continued help in areas, that we as a system can help to succeed in #1 priority, educating our children, preparing students for the future, and not to be known as failing.

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

In this tragic pandemic that has definitely affected our system, I will love to see our students and educators come back to a sense of normalcy slowly but surely it is happening; as the school system adjusts, we recognize putting more reading intervention, teacher aids, more parent involvement that would help with children at home. The system understands the slide will require a lot of work, and we

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are ready to dedicate all the hard work, and the efforts to get TCS all the way back on track from this pandemic, moving forward.

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?

TCS has a state of the art center for technology. We will continue to move TCTA with students to learn different trades and prepare for the future. We have different initiatives to recruit more students to be involved in this program. I am pushing for not to only recruit skilled labor but learn the business side to produce skilled, talented, educated entrepreneurs!

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?

My vision in 10 years is to see our system more diverse, continuing to produce greatness, clean and welcoming facilities, great staff, innovative educators, an efficient budget, be a reliable community partner to the city, parents, educators, etc. Also make sure programs are in place for all students, all areas of education levels, emotional learning, and preparing students for life after TCS.

As an elected official I will continue to be an advocate for educators, parents, community, but mainly students. I hold deep compassion for diversity and everyone being on the same page. I will continue to do my research on topics I do not fully understand and pray to make the best decisions for TCS with my one vote. My thought process to focus on TCS's well-being, mentally/physically and financially will solely be to keep us striving to be a premier school system. I want to continue being innovative in the school, showing our students self-worth is important, being educated and absorbing it is important, being productive is important. I pray in 10 years families will be moving here not just for great jobs & tourism, but because the school system is premier and diverse!