



Anne Arundel County Chapter | Maryland
health, safety and equity in education

Election Candidate School Hours Questionnaire

Please return to: sslaaco@gmail.com

Candidate Name: _____ **Terry Gilleland, Julie Hummer, Allison Pickard** _____

These candidates have neither acknowledged nor responded to the questions (below) asked of them and their opponents.

Their Board of Education votes regarding safe and healthy school hours is public record and summarized here. Videos may have amplifying information and comments by Board members. Links are provided to source documents and videos.

February 17, 2016: Agenda Item 4.01 - Superintendent's Recommended FY2017 Operating Budget

Amendment 2: Remove \$8,147,476 designated for School Start and Dismissal Times proposal.

In Favor: Birge, **Gilleland, Hummer**, Nalley, **Pickard**, Horstkamp Against: Frank, Korbela, Sasso

Amendment 3: Add \$1.4 million to be used to adjust school start times (no set plan put forth).

In Favor: Frank, **Gilleland, Hummer**, Korbela, Nalley, Sasso, Horstkamp Against: Birge, **Pickard**

Source: <https://www.aacps.org/cms/lib/MD02215556/Centricity/Domain/157/BoardvotesFY2016.pdf> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UuZGpoG1yE0&t=10656s>

September 21, 2016: Agenda Item 5.08- School Start and Dismissal Times 2017- 2018 (Option I-13 minute slide for High School, 15 minutes for all other schools)

In Favor: Frank, **Gilleland**, Grannon, Korbela, Sasso, **Hummer*** Against: Williams*, Nalley

Source: <https://www.aacps.org/cms/lib/MD02215556/Centricity/Domain/157/BoardvotesFY2017.pdf>* and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzGb1M-ve-Q&t=8251s>

*The online voting record does not match the video of votes. Ms. Hummer spoke favorably of the 13/15 minute slide (see statement below) and Ms. Williams did not; both voted accordingly.

Mr. Gilleland: “I think we need to continue to fix the elementary school dismissal time. And I hope that the efficiencies we gain from the system... is a step....another part of this discussion is the length of the school day....I really want to assure the community that I am going continue my role here to ensure we are efficient, gain from efficiencies, and ensure we are making the elementary school system right.”

Ms. Hummer: “While it is not perfect, I think we need to start making incremental change and to move forward... I would like assurance from the school system that we will continue to do everything possible that we can, in looking at things, working with the schedule to tighten this, and help these elementary schools as much as we can.... And we continue to try find ways to help these elementary schools, so that this option is truly the worst case and we can continue to find ways to improve that so that it not a burden for them.”

February 15, 2017: Agenda Item 5.03 Superintendent's Recommended FY 2018 Operating Budget

*Propose to increase the FY2018 budget request by \$8,147,476 and 7.0 Full Time Equivalents to provide additional funding to the Transportation category so that no regular bus pickup is earlier than 7:30 a.m. and no regular bus drop off is later than 4:30 p.m. beginning in the 2018- 2019 school year. **Motion by Sasso receives no second and therefore fails. (Hummer, Gilleland, or other board members could have seconded the motion for further discussion, but did not.)***

Source: <https://www.aacps.org/cms/lib/MD02215556/Centricity/Domain/157/BoardvotesFY2017.pdf> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o76UJ6hzfQ>

February 21, 2018: Superintendent's Recommended FY 2018 Operating Budget

No amendment to adjust school hours is offered by any Board of Education member.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, American Academy of Sleep Medicine, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health groups recommend that middle and high school start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. These experts base their recommendation on numerous studies that connect changing adolescent sleep patterns and early school start times to lower academic achievement, negative physical and mental health conditions, and risky behaviors among teens.

A 2014 Start Time Task Force by Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) recommended several potential options to improve school hours, and in February 2015, the County Council unanimously passed Resolution 6-15 urging AACPS to follow the recommendations of its 2014 Task Force and “expeditiously take measures to establish safe and healthy high school hours for all students.”

Despite shifting start times by 13-15 minutes this year, AACPS and the Board of Education have thus far been unable to fully implement safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours. Therefore, Start School Later Anne Arundel County asks:

1. Will you sign Start School Later’s 2017 petition at <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/establish-safe-and-healthy-school-hours-in-anne-arundel-county> ?

If No, will you sign it? If you won't sign it, please explain why.

2. Based on the research that later middle and high school start times increase graduation rates and decrease absenteeism, with disadvantaged students benefiting the most from age-appropriate school hours, do you feel the current school hours affects the County's ability to be a leader in K-12 education for all students?

3. What hours would you define as healthy, safe, and age appropriate for:

Elementary School:

Middle School:

High School:

4. In your prior experience and positions, what have you done to ensure all Anne Arundel County Public School students (K-12) have healthy, safe, and age appropriate school hours?

5. In your elected position, what will you do to ensure healthy and safe school hours for all of Anne Arundel County Public School Students? Please be specific: Resolutions, recommendations, funding requests, educational outreach, implementation efforts, etc.

6. What is your timeframe for your actions in Question 5 Please be specific, Fiscal Year, School Year, etc.

7. Is there anything else you would like your constituents and future voters to know about your position on safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours?