



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

Election Candidate School Hours Questionnaire

Please return to: sslaaco@gmail.com

Candidate Name: _____ **Torrey Snow** _____

Start School Later Anne Arundel County met with Mr. Snow on January 22, 2018.

Mr. Snow had two primary concerns: What is the level of community “buy-in” and how does school start times relate to his goal of increasing parental ownership of educational choices? SSL AACO was able to have a good discussion centered on those two topics with Mr. Snow. Budgetary impacts were an additional concern.

Mr. Snow also provided the following additional email comments:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Torrey Snow <tsnow@snow4liberty.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 23, 2018 at 9:05 AM
Subject: Re: County Council election candidate views on school hours
To: Lisa VanBuskirk <sslaaco@gmail.com>

Hi Lisa,

I've spent the last several weeks talking to educators and parents on this topic. As we stated in our meeting, I agree with the concept of healthy school start times. I'm running for office to represent the interests of our residents. I am persuaded that the only correct path to resolve this issue is to persuade the majority of parents and educators that healthy start times is a viable path for the sprawling nature of our educational bureaucracy. We must also consider the impacts of this plan to the busy schedules of our parents. As it currently stands, based on my conversations, many parents are not very receptive to the ideas presented so far. This doesn't mean that there is no solution, but it doesn't appear that we have the right solution yet.

I would like to be a strong ally in helping get the word out about this discussion, as well as helping to identify and implement a solution that serves to empower both parents and students. I have a proven record of creating healthy discussion around controversial issues. I would even be willing to explore some of the tools available to the county council to help residents better understand one another. When parents are sufficiently engaged and educated to welcome the implementation of healthy start times, I will use whatever resources at my disposal to ensure that the administration cooperates with the desires of our residents.

There are several tools I will use measure the interest in our community. I spend lots of time talking directly with families, door-to-door. I also have the ability to pull community groups together, for productive discussions. Social media is another tool we can use to help measure the impact of our efforts to educate residents of the options available to them.

I think we can make progress on this matter, and I hope we'll continue to have an open dialogue on the subject.

Thanks,

Torrey

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?