

# **Biggest 2020 Election Candidate Forum already a Big BUST!! It's NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!! Reports and fact- checks by Robert A. Williams**

The Cleveland Community College Candidates Forum for the 2020 School Board Election will be held Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at the CCC Mildred Keeter Auditorium beginning at 6:30-PM. THIS FORUM IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!!

Historically the purpose of a candidate forum is to get all the candidates for an elected office together and have the public, the voters, to ask them questions about the candidates position on the various issues that are of the public's highest interest. Also, certain different groups with their own major interests have held their own candidate forums. This is how democracy in America is supposed to work:

1. Public minded citizens sign up to run for elected office.
2. Citizens are allowed to ask questions of the various candidates.
3. The candidates for office state their positions on the various questions.
4. Then the citizens make informed decisions on who they believe will best represent their best interest in the elected office.
5. Then the citizens vote for the particular candidate of their choice on Election Day.
6. The candidate with the most votes wins their election to that office.

Ideally this is a perfect system. But there are potential

problems.

1. Often candidates for office will tell lies about their real position on the issues. They will take polls of the citizens to see what they want, and then tell potential voters what they want to hear in forums, debates and in political advertising.
2. Political Parties will tell lies about what they stand for and what their candidates stand for.
3. Incumbents in office will lie about what they have accomplished in office.
4. Incumbents will lie about their opponents and challengers will tell lies about incumbents.
5. Also, incumbents will distort their records in office to deceive the public. They will also distort official records to hide problems from the public and CYA in lawsuits.
6. Many in the public do not care to take the time or make the effort to correctly inform themselves about the issues and who is running for office. So, when they go vote, their decisions are made on who has the most yard signs, biggest billboards and the "slickest" advertisements and bumper stickers, hats and tee-shirts.
7. Worst of all, the candidates with the most yard signs, biggest billboards and slickest advertisements will owe their allegiance in office, not to the voters and the citizens, but to those special interests who pay for those yard signs, billboards and advertisements.

Over the past 20 years or so, the biggest Political Candidates Forum in Cleveland County has been the one at Cleveland Community College. They have an auditorium that is set up like a theater. An elevated stage, Curtains, special lighting, Slanted floors for better audience viewing. But most of all, it is set up with high-end recording and broadcast equipment. All paid for with taxpayer funding. Citizen funding. Public Funding. However, this Tuesday's School Board forum is NOT open to the public, no matter that the public paid for the

whole she-bang!

And, there is more. The forum sponsors: Cleveland Community College, The Chamber and the Shelby Star get to make up and ask the questions and THEY don't accept questions from the public.

And, there is more. Cleveland Community College, although paid for by the public, does NOT encourage public attendance or public participation at their own Board of Trustee meetings. They schedule their BOT meetings during the public's usual working hours and they have a long history of being an elitist group who do not care much about the public-peons (Pee-ons) to their way of thinking). Not a public friendly group, Not all but too many. And certainly not a group who cares about asking the regular public working-class folks to provide questions for their forum.

The Chamber? They represent the "Massa's'" in Cleveland County. They are only interested in what interests themselves in making THEIR big money. Only what is best for their kind of people. They are the people who want low wages for the working class and want to hire only those who won't complain about being exploited. They certainly don't want to hear about what interests the average Joe and Jane families and kids in Cleveland County. Especially the black ones.

And, last and least, the Shelby Star. The Shelby Star that ain't in Shelby no more. Their only desire is to get all the advertising buck\$ they can get from Chamber members and dollars from governmental agencies. They "sell" their small Newspapers In Education articles to the schools by the thousands that end up, still bundled and unread at the trash dump's recycling bins the very next day. Once the Shelby Star receiver around \$200,000 per year for "consulting services" from the School Board for favorable press. I don't know whether or not that is still the price. But CCS still gets favorable press (fake news) from the Star. Often favorable

press that is filled with lies and distortion. Like the recent article about the phony sale and closing (lack-of) on the old North Shelby School to Mt. Calvary Church under Rev. Dr. Lamont Littlejohn. The Rev. Littejohn who is also the Chairman of the CCC Board of Trustees. All buddies with each other but none are buddies with the public's best interest. And especially anybody that disagrees with them.

All the forum questions will be coming from this crowd and NOT from the public. And the public is not invited. How dumb and stupid is all of this???

Also, the questions will not be given out in advance to the candidates. Let me re-state, the questions are not supposed to be given out to the candidates before the forum. As I have attended most of these forums over the past years, I don't believe a word of that. Especially the 2020 Republican Primary Elections when I wrote an article that I believed and contended that Commissioner candidate Johnny Hutchins used "cheat-sheets" prepared by County taxpayer paid employees that knew the questions in advance.

But, why would these forum questions be kept secret in the first place? Wouldn't the public's interest be best served for the candidates to know what is on the minds of the public so they could THINK about the problems and issues facing the people of Cleveland County and come up with ways to fix them. And, who would benefit by secret questions?

The answer to that is simple. Incumbent candidates running for re-election would benefit by so-called secret questions that only they had advanced knowledge of. Only incumbents have voting records that they have to defend. With advance knowledge of the questions the incumbents would have the opportunity to come up with cover-up stories and lies about what they did in office. In this 2020 School Board election. There are only three incumbents: Shearra Miller, Richard Hooker and Roger Harris. And those three have so much to hide.

Multiple and often Sex scandals, failing schools, retaliation against whistle blowers, administration bullying teachers and staff, students bullying students, teachers assaulting students, 200 School Credit Cards, Fraud scandals, nepotism scandals, filing a lawsuit against the Sheriff, violating North Carolina law by allowing a boy to use the girls restroom-just to name a very few. Of course, not allowing the public to attend this forum is the biggest political scandal. It is probably unconstitutional to boot.

There are ten School Board candidates running for five seats on the 2020 School Board Elections—Shearra Miller, Richard Hooker and Roger Harris. The establishment elites are working hard to re-elect these three to go along with incumbents Phillip “Bully” Glover and Coleman Hunt to form a majority on the nine-person school board. That way they can keep control of the School Board by liberal tax and spenders. And continue their never-ending cover-ups.

The “establishment” has decided to attack dedicated “change” candidates like Samantha Davis, Robert Queen, Ron Humphries, Joel Shores and Rodney Fitch. Hoping that Miller, Hooker, Harris, Tolbert and Taylor will win. Or at least Miller, Hooker and Harris. But any combination of three of those last five candidates combined with Glover and Hunt will maintain the School Board status quo-to the detriment of all 14,000 students at CCS. While all of these candidates, Davis, Queen, Humphries, Shores and Fitch must win election in order to make the necessary changes on the School Board and at CCS.

My prediction for the CLOSED SESSION 2020 Elections School Board forum at CCC is this.

Based on 10 candidates and a two-hour forum the time breaks down like this:

- 120 minutes divided by 10 Candidates equals 12 minutes each.
- Opening and closing statements by the moderators plus the time it takes to read out each question will take at least 15

minutes total. There will also likely be a 15-minute break. Thirty minutes in all. Subtract 30 minutes from 120 minutes give you 90 minutes of candidate time. Nine Minutes each.

- Question time limits will vary from 30 seconds to two minutes. Closing statement time is only one minute. So, out of 9 total minute per candidate with a one-minute closing statement, leaves only eight minutes for questions.
- Two 30 second questions, two 60 second questions, two 90 second questions and one 120 second questions for each candidate and they are all done with the issues.

Common sense tells all of us that education in America is on a downturn. With the slope down being steep. American Education was the best in the world when I was coming along in School over 50 years ago. We put a man on the moon in 1969 and have not do so again sic ethos Apollo space shots. President Bill Clinton sold our last Saturn V rocket to China in the 1990s. Now many third world countries have better education systems than the USA. We are not even in the Top Ten anymore.

So how can any school board candidate describe their plan to recover the American Education system here in Cleveland County in eight minutes. Or eight hours. When years will obviously be required if we started tomorrow.

You don't have to be an Einstein, a rocket scientist or a nuclear engineer to figure that out. But we have to start somewhere. And this 2020 Cleveland Community College School Board forum that excludes the public is not likely going to be that starting point. And, it appears that this forum is part of a planned scheme to NOT be a starting point for changing our direction from down to UP.

As for me, I attended the 2020 Primary Elections School Board forum as well as other forums in the past. I have attended most of the School Board meetings and watch the videos on all that I missed. I have studied each candidate and have already come to my conclusions.

This is a “cut” from the 2020 School Board ballot. These are the candidates I recommend. Take a look at the sample ballot and tune in to this 2020 School Board Forum on Channel-19. Compare your impressions with mine. I suspect our conclusions will be the same.

One warning, remember that the incumbents will be treated better than anybody else. For the reasons provided in this article.

2020 General Election School Board Sample Ballot:

