



Colonial Heights Republican Committee

2026 SURVEY FOR COLONIAL HEIGHTS SCHOOL BOARD

Candidate: Lisa Hales Kochuba

1. Please tell us a bit about your background and involvement in the community.

As a lifelong resident of Colonial Heights, I attended and graduated from Colonial Heights Public Schools. I graduated from the University of Virginia with a BS in psychology and a minor in early childhood education. I'm married to Greg Kochuba and we have three married children, all of whom attended Colonial Heights Schools, and six precious grandchildren!

For the past 25+ years, I have held several positions within the Colonial Heights school system, to include classroom instruction, family resource support and School Board Member. On a state level, I have served on the Virginia Department of Education's Family Engagement Network, which is a collaborative group working toward achieving better educational and mental health outcomes for Virginia students and their families. I currently serve on the Social Services Board for Colonial Heights/Chesterfield, as well as the Operating Board of ChildSavers, a nonprofit which focuses on childhood development and mental health support.

I have served as acting chairman of the Special Education Advisory Committee, and served as a member of the Juvenile Domestic Violence Task Force and the Southside Trauma Informed Community Network. In our local community, I served as the Co-Founder and Director of Women of Worth, a mentoring program for middle school girls. I served on the Board of Directors, the Personnel Committee, the Women's Ministry Leadership Team and Youth Leadership for Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. I currently attend The Heights Baptist Church and have served on the Women's Ministry Team and MomCo. I also had the joy of serving as a Girl Scout troop leader for thirteen years in the Colonial Heights community.

I'm a gardening enthusiast and opened a floral design business in 2014, along with my daughter Katie. I enjoy volunteering, traveling, event planning, and spending time with my family.

2. Do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? If Republican, are you in accord with [The Republican Creed](#)?

Republican

3. *Please tell us why you are running for School Board.*

My goal in running for Colonial Heights School Board is to continue my commitment to advocate for students, staff, and families in Colonial Heights, with a focus on providing the supports and resources needed for our school community to provide the best outcome for all students.

4. *What are two or three things that Colonial Heights Public Schools are doing well?*

1. Colonial Heights Schools attracts and retains quality teachers and support staff, due to the excellent administrative leadership, newly upwardly revised payscale and step increases, and intentional support built in to create a unique family/community culture within the division.
2. Lower teacher to student ratios create a more intentional, personal, and well-supported environment for children to learn and thrive.
3. Colonial Heights Schools are well supported by the community and students/staff benefit from strong parent involvement.
4. Colonial Heights Schools are adequately funded by the city, state, and national governments, which allows for exceptional academic, athletic, and enrichment opportunities for our students and families. It also provides for quality facilities for learning, sports, and extracurricular events.
5. Colonial Heights Schools provides a growing number of opportunities for students to excel both through more rigorous academic courses and through technical training to achieve their personal life goals.
6. Colonial Heights Schools takes student/staff/community safety very seriously and has implemented well effective safety plans, provided Resource Officers at every school, installed safety technology that can help identify threats.

5. *What are two or three things that the Colonial Heights Public Schools need to improve on?*

1. Continued growth in family engagement to help facilitate and coordinate support from families for their students.
2. Continue cultivating community/business partnerships to collaborate and support student needs/interests through internships, financial support, or volunteers.
3. Continue providing greater support for higher than desired absentee rates and student mental health needs.

6. *How will you seek to be responsive to city residents if elected to the School Board?*

Listen, ask questions, find the facts, collaborate on solutions!

7. *What is the proper role of parents in their child(ren)'s public school education?*

The proper role for parents is to be present, pro-active, and supportive! Statistics prove that students with actively engaged parents have exceedingly better academic success!

- parents have the primary right to make decisions with respect to their children.
- schools should defer to parents to make the best decisions with respect to their children.
- schools should keep parents informed about their children's well-being.

8. *How should schools incorporate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom, if at all?*

AI is, and has been in use through google, social media, etc. I believe in teaching students the importance of responsible and safe use of all technology support. I believe that the school division has a moral/ethical/practical responsibility to regulate and intentionally monitor the implementation and availability of all technology accessible to students in the classroom.

9. *Is there anything else you would like to share that was not already asked?*

I appreciate your vote!