



Colonial Heights Republican Committee

2026 SURVEY FOR COLONIAL HEIGHTS SCHOOL BOARD

Candidate: Steven R. Neece

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

I moved to Colonial Heights as a 3rd Grader in 1989, attended Tussing Elementary and graduated from Colonial Heights High School in 1999. I attended the University of Virginia where I received my degree in Systems Engineering and Economics. I began working as an analyst for a financial institution in 2002 and am currently a Director of Risk Management for them. Through that career, I have built experience in operations and risk management, strategy setting, people leadership, and budget/investment planning. I graduated from the Darden School Executive MBA program at the University of Virginia in 2019. My education and work experience allows me to bring a unique perspective to the Board as I have a strong understanding of finance and people leadership.

My wife is a lifelong resident of Colonial Heights and we have three daughters. My oldest is a graduate of Colonial Heights High School, my 13 year old is at Colonial Heights Middle School, and my 10 year old is at Tussing. My wife has worked in Colonial Heights Schools since 2004 starting as a substitute and is now a 5th grade teacher at Tussing.

I enjoy spending time serving the community having been on the SYC Pool Board and the Conjuror's Neck HOA Board. I continue to volunteer as treasurer for the HOA. I spend a lot of time helping with the sports programs my girls are involved in and volunteering with school PTO activities.

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

I consider myself an Independent but a lot of my principles are in alignment with The Republican Creed.

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

I am running for School Board because I believe it is critical for the Board to have the voice of those currently impacted by Board policies, but also the understanding of the history of our community. I have history as a long time resident and former student. As a spouse of a teacher, and the father of 2 students, I am impacted every day by what is happening in our schools and hear from others through my wife's co-workers, students at my daughters' activities, and their parents. I believe I am well positioned to support all of the stakeholders of our school system. I want to make sure all students have the best opportunities possible through the schools, that staff is taken care of, and that parents are involved. I also believe that coming from the private business sector, I provide a unique perspective to budgeting and investment planning. I want to use these skills to improve our school system in an efficient manner for our city.

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

The school system has attracted and retained excellent staff. There is a strong culture for our staff that supports them doing their best for our students.

The school system does a good job of making the most of our aging buildings. Our newest school is 50 years old, but for their age, our schools are well maintained and provide a good learning environment for our students.

The school system has continued to leverage community partners to expand programs in CTE and to add the Associate's degree program.

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

The school system needs to further build a long term strategy for our aging infrastructure.

The school system needs to continue to invest in the right extracurricular programs to increase student engagement that would impact attendance, grades, and behavior. I would like to see an ROTC program, continued investment in our sports programs in partnership with the city, and programs that meet different student interests that prepare them for their future.

The school system needs to find the balance between the effectiveness of paper learning and preparing our students for a digital/AI future. I would like to bring back paper learning to an extent. I also want to make sure our students graduate educated on how to use AI in a responsible manner.

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

I will be in attendance at community and school events to provide visibility and to give community members the ability to approach me. I also invite community members to reach out as I am happy to have a conversation with anyone about what is happening in our schools and what we can do to improve.

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

Parents should have heavy involvement in their children's education. I believe that course work should be visible to parents and that they should be encouraged to attend events and volunteer within the school. I believe parental involvement is the biggest driver of success for students.

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

AI is part of our future that we need to be ready for. Students need to learn to think for themselves and develop their own ideas, but students should also be taught how to use AI responsibly. I believe most coursework should be done without AI. However, in middle school and high school, we need a specific curriculum to introduce the proper use of AI to students. Students need to learn how to write effective prompts and how to identify the risks of AI if they are going to be successful in the workforce.

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

Colonial Heights is a special community to me and I want to protect that for our future. We are able to have a school system that is interconnected with our community. As a small school system though, I do want to continue to look for opportunities with our community partners on how to provide more opportunities to our students through the community colleges, business partnerships, and online services.