

deaeyc Early Childhood Education Candidate Questionnaire

Answers Submitted By: D. Marque Hall

1. What are your views on the needs of young children (birth to kindergarten) and what specific steps would you take to address these needs?

From the cradle to the classroom children or "babies" deserve proper care no matter what color they are or how much money their parents have.

The trauma that the youngest children endure and the lack of means must be addressed. The scarcity of resources in certain communities must be addressed and I will make sure that the 3rd District gets what it needs, being the most vulnerable population in Wilmington- with the children being the most vulnerable citizenry of this population.

Give all youth a chance by providing conflict resolution using meditation, physical conditioning, communication and positive reinforcement. Some children are targeted and many more are just neglected and are looked past and not called on when they raise their hand. To get attention some act out and others are just bored or not interested because of the subject matter they're not inspired by. I've made a library of history/herstory/ourstory coloring books with titles that include Black Lives Matter, Black Patriots, Women of Consequence and We Are All Remarkable.

When I was asked along with other Golden Gloves Champions in 2018 who wanted to represent athletes on their board of Directors I raised my hand and at the Mid-Year Board meeting I spoke about protection for our youth and Safe-Sport Certification.

2. What are your views on the ways in which we can close the education achievement gap with a particular focus on the early years?

Equity in discipline for all children and an end to discriminatory practices.

I go to church with the Grandparents of a toddler who is Black. He goes to a "diverse" daycare where he was suspended for "fighting" with another boy over a toy.

This is not acceptable.

The Cradle to Prison Pipeline is forreal. The Daycare now wants to effectively medicate the boy.

This is not acceptable.

When I was a child, my mother refused to allow teachers who we didn't know- who claimed to be experts about me- to tell her that I should be medicated. I'm forever grateful to my mom.

3. What is the role of the state/city/federal government to provide for programs that will be addressing the socio-emotional and mental health issues young children will experience in the coming weeks and months resulting from the disruption in their lives brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic?

Folks like me, from "the worst" who were able to qualify for Pell Grants have children who should qualify to attend schools with the best to offer.

The poorest children- who are survivors of trauma- who are too often left behind must be put first along with teachers. It was just-thinking and right-thinking for me to say Teachers and all Essential workers must be put first initially because they are putting their lives at risk by returning to schools. It will cost millions to open schools safely and the teachers and staff deserve to be paid well. The government must ensure that those on the frontlines are taken care of. Students must be nurtured and cared for- not ignored or hurt.

We must demand the best representation inside the classrooms whether the teachers are on a computer screen or live and in person. They are going to need our help and we are going to need to pull together to make this stride possible during this trying time but we can do it together because we are all remarkable and we love our children.

This has never happened before- I have such a hard time explaining this to very young children but I never have a hard time telling them I PRAY this NEVER happens again. We must be mindful in how we recount this historic tragedy to them, now and in the future.

4. What steps would you take to attract, and retain quality educators in the early childhood education field?

We will use every media outlet (social and other) on the airways and in person on campuses and in churches to attract people with the right values: integrity, equity, diversity AND Quality.

5. As an elected official, what would be your top 4 priorities in the first 100 days in the position?

Transparency and Accountability for public officials including but not limited to:

1. Body cameras for police
2. Drug-testing of electeds
3. Opening access to Land-Bank "Dollar Properties" for our community
4. Developing Historic/Culturally enriching institutions and facilities

A museum dedicated to "The Old Eastside" on Clifford Brown Walkway behind the Louis Redding House, a stadium for Howard Highschool behind New Destiny Church, and boxing gyms on Vandever Avenue and Carter Street to provide outlets for pain-relief and empowerment.

6. How would you improve the economy of your city, our State and/or our nation?

I've done alot in my life and I believe in teaching Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy skills as well as providing labor opportunities. I'm still a young man at 33.

"Dont compare me with the Almighty- compare me with the alternative"

I've worked for my entire life. My opponent has had a silver spoon thanks to family who stole while in office. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree. My opponent has stolen public trust by abusing drugs and alcohol while in office, showing up late for meetings and not being sober or coherent.

I am a healthy and sober alternative with rationality and compassion. I will fight for the most vulnerable and victimized with dignity because I have been subject to abuse as a child myself and violence by the police- unjustly. I've been in the hole. I've been in shelters and in food lines.

I've stood in the Union line waiting to be hired for a day of work with pregnant women with their children. I've stood in lines for produce with families headed by men and women with records who couldn't get jobs but who were still seeking employment and I did what I needed to do and more to overcome. I went to school and I studied computers at a university that I still owe money to even though I qualified for the Pell Grants. I believe that we suffer for what it is that we don't know and that we are not successful for what it is that we don't do. I organized protests and petitioned thousands of people to bring buses going to A.I. Children's Hospital back to Rodney Square when this administration took them away.

I organized field trips for the children from the community centers all over the city to the African American Museum to DC to show the youth their history and culture. And I took students to movies and gave them books by the thousand that I made myself to inspire Black Greatness because We Are All Remarkable Fine Black Art. I'm giving the ex-offenders hope and letting them know that you can vote and run for office and help our community now. The youth need us to mentor and direct them away from the evil that will swallow them up. At 25, my first boxing coach invited me to church. I know that the healthy outlets for pain, aggression and anxiety keep youth from doing the wrong thing and will save lives because God used BOXING to save my life.