**Dr. Gary D. Wray Answer to Delaware PTA Questions**

**I am running for the Cape Henlopen School Board Area B seat. I have been in the Cape Henlopen School district for 41 years as a teacher at Milton and Cape High, a principal of Lewes Junior High, the district director of secondary education and later was elected to the Area B seat in 2005-2010. On the board I was elected by the board to be its VP (2006) and then to President (2006-08). One of the things I pushed for in 2005 was a referendum to build the new Cape Henlopen High School (opened 2010). One reason I am running for the board this year is the district is growing and the schools need to keep up as several need refreshed and/or replaced. I recently served on the district Facilities Task Force that made building recommendations to the school board. Over my years in Cape Henlopen I have been involved in almost all key building and policy decisions and I would like to continue to work in those areas for the next five years.**

**I have three daughters that graduated from Cape Henlopen High School in the 1990’s and I presently have two granddaughters who attend Beacon Middle School and a grandson who will enter Little Vikings in the fall.**

**2. We began inclusion in Cape years ago and it has been fully implemented in the district. I feel comfortable that our teachers and administrators are familiar with its use and are fully aware on how it is done. Our district also hosts the Sussex Consortium which has been recognized as one of the best programs in the country. On a personal note, my daughter is a special education teacher so I live with it most every day.**

**3. I believe in parent choice in schools so I support a parent’s right to opt out of testing. My view is that we test kids much too much so I support legislation to allow parent choice in this area.**

**4. Yes, I support teacher and administrator accountability in this area.**

**5. I can’t speak for other school districts but I can speak a bit for Cape and our schools are certainly not “dropout factories” by any stretch. Our teachers and staff spend quite a bit of time making sure that kids do not drop out and that we have programs that can reach all kids. Years ago we started to offer special help and summer school for those kids who need extra support to graduate. We also monitor student progress carefully at all levels to make sure of student success. I am proud of our efforts to make sure that all kids succeed in the Cape Henlopen School District.**

**6. I have been through fiscal “ups and downs” over my over 40 years in Cape and I feel very comfortable that our staff monitors our fiscal situation carefully and makes sound fiscal decisions to make sure that we don’t find ourselves in the area of cutting necessary programs.**

**7. Not quite sure about this question but I can tell you that Cape schools pride themselves in close communication with our families and when key decisions need to be made about a student, the family is closely involved.**

**8. Again, Cape prides itself in our extracurricular programs and they are not only necessary, but in my view they are critical to the overall success of a school district. As a principal I wanted all my students involved in some activities outside the regular curricula of the school, and to be able to participate in either sports or math league or chess club or anything else a student might like to get involved outside the regular school day. And I think most folks who know of Cape and our reputation, would agree that we do a good job in this area.**

**9. These subjects are as critical to a schools success as the other subjects in school IMO and they have always been offered in our school district. I don’t see that changing in any way.**

**10. I believe that all kids should know how to swim so if I could change anything in the budget, I would have a line for swimming education in our curricula and offer it as part of our PE program. When last on the board I pushed for a swimming pool at the new Cape High and, while it was voted down in a referendum (although it got almost 3000 votes in favor), my view has not changed as for me it is also a safety issue as we live at the beach and are surrounded by water and all of our kids should know how to swim. We also have a very good swimming program at Cape Henlopen High School and I am, and always have been, a strong supporter of Cape athletics and I would like our teams to have their own pool for both practice and competition.**

**Thanks for the questions.**

**Dr. Gary D. Wray**

**April 22, 2015**