

RESPONSE OF ALLEN DYER

Howard County Issues is a local civic publication planning on covering the school board race. We plan to ask policy and issue questions in the summer/fall of 2008, but are asking for profile information for the spring 2008 printing, due March 20.

Please take a few moments to let us know the following:

1. Your education level - be as specific as you would like (name of school, type of degree(s))

My most important educational degree is my class of 1964 high school diploma from Lincoln High School, a Seattle public school. I was the first member of my family to graduate from high school and my high school diploma opened the doors to the world of higher educational opportunities. Based on what my high school diploma meant to me, I see a high school diploma as evidence of a young person's willingness to stay the course and finish public school. Thus, I believe that no young person who stays in school and passes all required courses should be denied a high school diploma.

In 1968 I graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Sciences and in 1976 I graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and was admitted to the Maryland bar.

2. Your experience in working for the citizen residents of Howard County

I have served as a:

- Western Howard County Recreational League soccer coach;
- River Hill High School Boosters Board member;
- Registered Maryland lobbyist for community associations;
- Howard Public Education email list co-founder and moderator;
- Howard County Citizens Association member; and,
- Howard County Conservancy Blacksmith demonstrator.

In addition, I have provided testimony relating to public education issues at public hearings before the Board of Education, the County Council and the County Executive; represented Howard County Public School employees; filed Public Information Act requests; filed citizen complaints with the Open Meetings Act Compliance Board; and created a proposal for a *Teen Passenger & Driver Safety Coalition* which can be reviewed online at —
<http://www.riverhill.org/driving/project/index.htm>

3. An example of your ability to treat all citizens fairly, researching disparate positions with equal vigor

I don't see treating all citizens fairly as an ability but, rather, as a process. While I don't claim to be a perfect citizen, I do have a history of engaging in open, rational discussions about civic (and, in particular, public education) issues and devoting my time and training to strengthening public processes via citizen enforcement of the Open Meetings and Public Information Acts.

With respect to my faith in rational decision making, since 1996 I have actively contributed hundreds of email contributions to Howard County public education email lists. For example, the yahoogroups public archive for the howard public education list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howardpubliced/>) includes over 1600 of my messages (advanced search: author contains "aldyer@lawlab.com").

Over the years, my public messages memorialize my willingness to state my position, defend my position and sometimes, in response to facts and arguments presented by other list members, a willingness to admit that my original position was wrong. I am a proud person and I love to be right but, sometimes, I'm wrong and rational discourse is the process that allows me to recognize when I am mistaken. In sum, I believe fair treatment of citizens rests on a vigorous, open discussion of all viewpoints rather than some Solomon-like ability that elected officials magically acquire when they receive a 51% vote on election day.

4. Family information (children educated in the HCPSS?)

My wife, Tamara, and I have been married since 1968 and we have two children both of whom attended and, graduated from, Howard County Public Schools. Our son, Abe, graduated from Boston University in 2004 and our daughter, Ann Marie, will graduate from Boston University this May.

5. Any other civic information that is important for voters to form a profile of your successful background which prepared you for the school board position.

I served five years in the U.S. Air Force including a year of combat in Vietnam as a Forward Air Control Pilot. My background as an educator includes providing flight instruction in light airplanes, gliders and free balloons and computer science instruction at Anne Arundel Community College. I have served on the Board of Directors of the TeX Users Group which is an international organization that provides education and support for the mathematical typesetting program written by Dr. Donald Knuth of Stanford University. As an attorney I have extensive experience in matters involving the interpretation and application of the EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE.

Please let me know if you prefer a telephone interview.

Thank you,

Mona Brinegar, Editor-in-Chief
Howard County Issues