



# Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education E N D O R S E M E N T S

The Washtenaw Community Action Team (WCAT) is a coalition of labor, community, and student activists who fight against policies that hurt working people and their communities, and educate people about progressive alternatives. To learn more about our activities, visit our web site at: <http://washtenawcat.org/>

This August, the WCAT met with all ten candidates running for a seat on the AAPS Board of Education. Based on their alignment with our values, the experience and knowledge they bring to the work, and their demonstrated commitment to public education, the WCAT endorses the following candidates for the four positions available this November.



**Hunter Van Valkenburgh**, a former High School History teacher in Southfield, earned a JD from Wayne State and is currently a self-employed attorney in Ann Arbor. He believes Ann Arbor's board needs to make classroom instruction its top priority, but, if costs need to

be cut, we should look to our employees first for ideas of where to save money without hurting our workers. He advocates eliminating standardized tests that the state does not mandate. Hunter believes the board should revisit the issue of privatization and look for more creative ways to keep tax money in the community, such as worker-owned cooperatives. He opposes the annexation of Whitmore Lake "unless the State of Michigan can provide ironclad guarantees of per-pupil funding increases and/or restructure Whitmore Lake's debt to the Department of Education."



**Jeff Harrold**, founder and Pastor of New Beginnings Community Church, brings perspective and awareness of social justice to the issues faced by the district. Jeff believes the district should reduce suspensions by making restorative justice the first choice when a student has harmed the

community. He would partner with all stakeholders to develop creative and collaborative approaches to address both the district's opportunities and its problems. Jeff is currently the Coordinator for Academic Standards and Special Populations at the University of Michigan. He's trained in Social Justice Mediation and serves as a mediator/facilitator for the University of Michigan's Office of Student Conflict Resolution. Jeff earned a B.A. in Economics from the University of Michigan and a M. Div. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.



**Susan Baskett** brings 11 years of experience as an AAPS Board of Trustees member. She has served as a watchdog on issues both in and out of the classroom and isn't afraid to ask the tough questions. Susan believes public education is a right of all students, a right that is under threat. She knows firsthand

how a quality education can serve as an 'equalizer' for any child to achieve in life. A proud AAPS graduate, Susan earned a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Michigan and an MBA in Marketing from Duke. Additionally, Susan was honored with the Award of Distinction from the Michigan Association of School Boards and is a member of the Ann Arbor Area Transit Authority Board of Directors.



**Roland Zullo** is currently Associate Research Scientist at the University of Michigan's Institute for Research on Labor, Employment, and the Economy. He is an expert in analyzing public sector operations, including schools, and has published analyses of the impacts of privatization in professional

journal. Roland is a former member of the USWA and AFT. He has served on bargaining and grievance handling teams and was once employed as an economic development specialist creating worker-owned enterprises. He co-authored the Worker-Owned Cooperative proposal for the AAPS Custodians submitted to the board this summer.