

## **Don Coleman for 7<sup>th</sup> District School Board**

# **Unity in the Community**

## **A City Wide Vision for Educational Excellence**

We have endured two years of power struggles within our city government. The School Board, City Council and the Mayor have each proposed their unique vision for the Richmond Public Schools. No consensus was reached as each group held to its own vision. Disagreements are understandable in the public square, but Richmond has been torn by disunity. The excessive cost in time, dollars and the people's trust must stop now.

### *It is time to unite under one vision*

For the sake of our children, our community and our schools, I am committed and ready to build the consensus we so desperately need. I believe this is possible. As a school board member I pledge to advocate for our children and be a voice for **Unity in the Community**. Together, there is real hope for progress. I propose three specific elements to underline that shared vision:

#### Quality & Equality

*Standards Beyond S.O.L.s* -- Focus on raising our standards above the S.O.L. requirements and strive to close all educational achievement gaps.

*Social Justice* -- Work to ensure all of our schools provide students with a quality education as a matter of fundamental social equality.

*No Geographical Bias* -- Each child should have a safe, wholesome and challenging educational experience no matter where their school is located.

#### A New Culture

I intend to lead by example -- demonstrating a culture of collaboration and mutual respect within our divided city government. Our students, teachers and administrators will benefit tremendously by this new culture. If you will support me, you and I together will restore the public's confidence in our school system.

#### Financial Health

Tax dollars have been wasted through neglect, mismanagement and short-term thinking. Together we will restore financial health to Richmond schools through strategic planning and fiscal responsibility. The incoming superintendent must have management expertise in budgeting along with the other required and vital qualities. Our budget resources should be focused on:

Classroom needs

Professional development for teachers

Leadership development for our principals

*Will you come join me in this new vision for Unity in the  
Community?*