

## April's Stance on the current Uniform Policy

I would not have voted for the current uniform policy for several reasons. First, the principals at all of Alachua County's high schools signed a letter to the Board asking for them not to implement a uniform for our high schools. I spoke with most of the middle school principals in Alachua County and they all expressed the same sentiment. We entrust the administration of our high schools with the principals. I believe the Board should have listened to them. Second, there is no clear, countywide policy in place for disciplining students that do not comply with the uniform policy. It is up to the administration of each school to set the punishments. That was the main problem with the former dress code. Each school implemented it differently – some were very strict and others were not. There needs to be a county-wide set of disciplinary actions that schools should enforce. The “just send them home” policy doesn't work. Third, as a parent it will be more expensive for our family this year. We will have two sons in college and a Junior at Buchholz High School. We had not planned on buying him any clothes at the beginning of school because he has plenty of clothes that his brothers have left behind. He has no solid collared shirts, all of them are striped so we will be buying him a set for school. Fortunately, for our family it is not a big burden, just an inconvenience. I know for a fact that many of our families are struggling and if they have more than one student, the burden increases.

I could keep going, but I think you get the picture. The fact is that we do have a uniform policy and as parents, we need to make sure our students comply. Our schools are burdened enough and don't need to “deal” with students that do not, for whatever reason, choose to follow the policy. Until the principals come and ask specifically for a mandatory uniform policy, my opinion will remain the same. As a member of the School Board I want to have an open line of communication, personal awareness of what is going on in our schools and an educated view on issues.