

**This Survey was posted on the HSCIN website, [www.hscin.org](http://www.hscin.org), from Friday, March 30, until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2007.**

**131 Surveys were Completed**

**The Average Time to Complete the Survey was 3 minutes**

**Question:** Should the Board of Education be elected or appointed?

72% Elected  
15% Appointed  
13% Some Combination of the Two

**Question:** Do you agree with the Education Committee's recommendation to reappoint Bill Veitch for another 5-year term?

10% Yes  
84% No  
6% Not Sure

**Question:** Please share any comments you would like to share with the City Council regarding Mr. Veitch's reappointment? Please note that this is NOT intended to replace direct communication with the Council. You are encouraged to pursue that avenue as well.

Mr. Veitch has not given a good image for Hoover. He has flown in the wind in whatever direction the majority chooses. Great politician, no integrity. And have you asked him what his plans are for the next election? I've heard he's running for DA and that's why he wants this position: to keep his name out there. So, is he using y'all, or are y'all using him?

Mr. Veitch is an embarrassment to our school system. I guess that's why he got the position, he fits in well with the other board members. Why can't the council see that? Because they are not stakeholders in our school system, they don't have children in the system anymore and they really don't care!

We need fresh thinking and a voice of the parents on the board. Trust does need to be rebuilt and it cannot happen with the entire same board that lost the people's trust. Personally, I think Mr. Cooper would be the best choice. He is wise, intelligent, and fair, with knowledge of boards and education.

I work in a school system where appointing School Board members by the city council works. Unfortunately, Hoover is still using the crony system so it is not

working. Bill Veitch had his turn. Also, let's get a bit more career diversity and people with educational experience on the BOE

I feel that he has not done an adequate job in the five years that he has been on the board so he does not need to be reappointed. He has never seemed totally interested in what is happening in the schools. He does not conduct himself in a professional manner during the school board meetings. I have been embarrassed at some of the comments that he has made as president during the meetings.

what a joke. I guess he fits right in with the rest of them. Whatever happened to having fine, upstanding citizens on the school board? Whatever happened to looking at past job performance? Veitch has been a terrible school board member. He's laughable at best, uninformed, useless, and promotes a terrible image for Hoover. Again, he goes right along with the rest of them.

We need some new ideas and attitudes on the Board. It will be "business as usual" with Mr. Veitch reappointed.

Experience is great, but we need some new and fresh ideas.

Mr. Veitch has not been very effective in his position. Let someone else have the opportunity to assist Hoover City schools becoming a world class school system!

he should NOT receive permission

Bill Veitch had his chance. He was not successful as a leader who brought the community together. Instead his tenure was divisive as teachers, the board and the community were at odds.

I do not feel that Mr. Veitch's handling of recent school board decisions have been done in the most above board manner. It seems to me that he and Suzy Baker handle things in a way that suits them. I know the bottom line is politics; he doesn't have the best interest of our children at heart.

I do wish Mr. Veitch was more assertive in his position as President of the Board. I feel he is the only voice for the "other side of town" as Mr. Defnall is often not in attendance at board meetings and Mr. Bolt, Mrs. Baker, and Mrs. Frazer seem to run roughshod over the meetings. After all, as stated by SACS, it is the duty of the board to act of policy and personnel recommendations made by the superintendent. It is not the duty of the board to create policy. And it has concerned me about HCS accreditation these last few months.

Would like to have more public input, public discussion, etc. about who is on the school board. As it stands now, in order to change the school board, we have to change (vote out) the city council.

It is apparent we need a CHANGE in the current school board and we (the people) are basically powerless to control any change for years (i.e. waiting in election of new city council)

In a time where the community is so polarized over Board actions, it would be a show of good faith to put someone new on the school board rather than keeping ANYONE on the Board for that long.

I don't agree with it simply because it was another decision made in private without any public input. If we continue to let this happen, it will continue to happen. At what point do we say "enough" and demand change?

While Mr. Veitch claims he has experience now with board it is obvious his understanding of the workings of education is deficient and he should be replaced at this time.

Due to the amount of controversy in recent months I feel it is time for a new board and a fresh start. Hopefully individuals will be selected who are committed to the education of the children in our city and not their own hidden political agendas.

Mr. Vietch seems to have his own agenda and does not seem to care about the schools or teachers. He does not have an education background either.

I don't feel it should be a council decision, but rather a decision that INCLUDES parents and school personnel, as well as the community.

He is very bad for the school system. he is not open to the entire city of Hoover. Many believe he has his own private agenda for the system.

The interview transcripts clearly show that others were more qualified. Mr. Veitch has continually had an uninformed and questionable ethic shadow around him. He has asked on more than one occasion that public documents be destroyed and strong armed board employees into silence and compliance with threats.

I have had the misfortune of witnessing the behavior of our school board at regularly scheduled meetings and especially during the interviews of Dr. Edwards and the candidate who followed him. In open forums, Mr. Veitch consistently embarrasses our school system and community with his outrageous comments. An example of one of his worst was his explanation of his expectations for the superintendent's interaction with the board. When queried by Dr. Edwards, Veitch said the superintendent

should know the board is his/her boss even if they are "idiots". For a school board member to ignore the true stakeholders in a school system such as the community, students, teachers, employees, etc to which the school serves and assume the "almighty board" is the "boss" of any superintendent for the system, is disgusting. It is a demonstration of his utter lack of knowledge and understanding of the role a school system plays in a community. We should not miss this golden opportunity to dismiss one horribly under qualified candidate for the Hoover City School System. Mr. Veitch is one of five reasons that Hoover did not have its Central Office brimming with eager candidates for the superintendent's position. With the overwhelming support of parents and resources of which our school system benefits, the only reason we were not able to appoint a qualified candidate to this position was the infamous, ignorant, uneducated, outrageous actions of our appointed school board.

**I consider Mr. Veitch to be indifferent to the opinions of Hoover's teachers and to the educational belief system and mission statement of Hoover City Schools. He appears to be vindictive and uncaring, poor qualities for a person representing a school system.**

It is very disappointing to note that the council is **TOTALLY** insensitive to the desires of the Hoover community. We have expressed our distrust and distaste of the current school board and our council is demanding that we have 5 more years of the same.

I think Mr Veitch and the board has had to make some difficult decisions in the last 2 years. I am pleased with their professionalism, their focus on what is really important-the children and their desire to hire and keep excellent teachers. I am a long term employee who continues to see progress and new ideas that are already in the works for our school system.

**One term is long enough for any BOE member.**

This web site should be called [TrishCrain'sagenda.com](http://TrishCrain'sagenda.com) Your disclaimer needs to be a little bigger (This website is not affiliated with Hoover City Schools or the Hoover City Board of Education. HSCIN is solely responsible for its content) you know that one

I oppose the re-appointment of anyone to the board. The current board is under qualified to make policy on education matters. Their only credentials appear to be their political affiliation with the Hoover City Council.

**We need board members who represent the people of the community and advocate for children and not special interests.**

Mr Veitch has little regard for the needs and desires of the majority of teaching professionals in the system.

As a Hoover teacher, I continue to be amazed that the leaders of our district are not from the education arena. Not all members should be educators, but at least someone. I wouldn't let my dentist tell me I need to have heart surgery; yet it seems acceptable to have business people tell us how to run our schools. Our school is not a business--if it were I could fire or transfer all the students who don't want to work. I don't think any of our board members or city council truly understand what occurs daily in our schools--particularly elementary.

Once again, it seems that the City Council is completely out of touch with what the community at large is feeling. After the dismissal of Connie Williams, the appointments of inexperienced persons to the Board over much more qualified candidates, public scolding by board members of citizens daring to voice their opinions, and a reckless disregard for the betterment of the Hoover School System, the City Council is once again railroading through their yes man with no discussion, no concern for public desire, and no apparent belief that they will be held accountable. It is a shameful act, and undermines all credibility the Council has.

Wow, what a surprise! Is the fact the vote was 3-2 supposed to make us feel better about the decision? Give me a break, politics and agendas still run my kids school system. Unfortunately, the kids are not a part of the agendas or the politics.

Mr. Veitch has not taken the opportunity to learn how to be a good board member during the five years he has been on the BOE. He has said that he wants to be on the board so he can do "favors" for people so they will owe him "favors" when he runs for DA. That is NOT a good reason to be a board member!

He has already had a 5 year chance to show his abilities, why should he be given 10? He has stated before he was counting down the days until he was no longer on the board, why the sudden change? There are other candidates that are willing and hard working. I think this is a no brainer...This will sure to be an issue in the next Hoover council elections.

Cooper is clearly the superior candidate.

After 5 years, all Veitch said he could bring back for another 5 years is his personal brand of "common sense". Council has turned this into a political appointment to serve the city's agenda, not a character-based appointment as mandated by the law. Council does not care about education or it would make character-based appointments to the board of education.

Bill Veitch does not share my values. Furthermore, I believe he is a liability to the school system. This City Council continues to make decisions that are NOT in the best interest of the citizens of Hoover and I plan to share that opinion with as many people possible prior to the next election. The

city needs leaders that will do the right thing because it is the right thing to do. Bill Veitch's appointment will signal to the city that "back office deal making politics" are alive and well in the Hoover City Council.

Too many times, Veitch has treated this position in a flippant, sometimes casual, manner. I do not observe behavior that exemplifies professionalism or characteristics of former board members.

Mr. Veitch has served his time and does not appear qualified. Many people have no confidence in him or the current school board. Get someone new!

During the interviews for Superintendent he questions was not thought provoking or inquisitive enough to prom response from each candidate. He had a "las faire" attitude and no in-depth approach to his questioning.

The Hoover school system is no longer an infant system serving a community of under 20,000 residents. We need board members (and council members) who understand that their job is to serve the community!

Veitch says he wants to serve another term, but why? Who does he want to fire now? Ms. Morrison says she supports him because of his experience on the board; what experience did he have before he was selected? I say it's time to select someone else. After reading the minutes from the CC meeting, it appears to me that Mr. Cooper would serve as a better recommendation for BOE member. He presented himself very well and appears to be very well informed on the school system and its operation. **TIME FOR SOME NEW BLOOD**

I think that the Hoover school board should be elected not appointed by the City Council. It seems that all they do is appoint friends, or people they know will do their bidding. I believe it is time to make a change in this organization.

**Dishonest, closed meetings, no communication w/ Hoover parents, arrogant**

Bill Veitch does not seem to know procedures, acts in a unprofessional manner, and the board would be better served with someone that is qualified for that position.

Mr. Veitch has not proven himself during the last five years. He hasn't really spent time educating himself on the educational issues relevant to Hoover.

He also is not great spokesperson for the school board.

**The other candidates interviewed better. In this case qualifications and interview far out weighs Mr. Veitch's experience.**

I was not pleased with Mr. Veitch's record on education

I think the superintendent should be elected as well...he is answerable to the parents not to the city council. To affect the board by whom we elect

to council waters down our voices and our views. I believe that the board and the superintendent don't truly feel answerable to the citizens they serve.

We need some one on the board that doesn't have a hidden agenda. Mr. Veitch is not looking out for the education of all the students of Hoover, only the very rich.

Please don't make this mistake again. Veitch has had his chance. Any one of the other four people are more qualified than he is, according to the interviews I read.

I feel that he has served his time. I do not agree with his handling of the superintendent situation last summer. While legal, it seemed underhanded.

It sounds to me as if there are some candidates available that would be a good choice for replacing Vietch. NO to reappointing Vietch.

I feel the school board did not listen to the survey I and other parents completed before. Our number one concern was that this person have great experience in education. A high priority for all of us. Bill Veitch may have experience in other areas, but not education. This is a big concern for me. How can you run a large school system without any experience in education? I feel there is a stonger candidate.

Veitch is a strong proponent of keeping schools open in the Green Valley/Shades Mountain Area and not making those children commute to Spain Park. He will speak up and not let the other three cause this to happen. A new person may not have that where with all and Veitch has publicly stated he is against the transfer.

I am quite confused as to why the Council would reappoint a Board member who couldn't wait for his term end. I am also confused as for why the Council would choose someone who appears to be shallow minded and can't answer simple questions pertaining to our school sytem. Is it true he's never stepped foot in our schools? Has he been "prepared" for his open and closed meetings? His arrogance alone was enough for me to know he only cared for himself and wouldn't contribute much for our children's education. Please reconsider your appointment for many of us believe Mr. Vietch is not a good representative to serve on behalf of our children. Does he understand he is suppose to serve on their behalf? Of course, they'll not be of voting age when he runs for D.A. right? Basically, upon moving here we chose to live in Hoover because of the school system (versus Oak Mountain schools) and now we're contemplating moving BECAUSE of the Hoover school system. Sad. Very sad.

Mr. Veitch has not always reflected the best attitude when dealing with the parents and teachers of Hoover. I have watched his eyes roll or seen him whisper to other board members when the board is being addressed by a citizen. I have heard him be irate and

unkind to those who just want to speak and ask questions. I am at a loss as to why he wants to be reappointed except to be in the news!

the appointee needs to be someone with a vested interest in Hoover City Schools i.e. children actively enrolled in a Hoover City school

Mr. Veitch does not appear to have the right intensions for being on the board. We need people who really know what is best for children. Not someone who just wants to get some sort of political gain from their position. Mr. Veitch seems to have his own personal adgenda.

The public currently has zero faith in the HCS school board. There MUST be some changes in order to repair the rift. It would also be quite nice to have someone on the school board who, say, knows something about education. What a concept!

I feel STRONGLY against the reappointment of Veitch. I believe that he does not have the best interests of families and educators in mind and is not dedicated to doing the job.

How can you even consider re-appointment of a school board member who ADMITS he never looks at the material to be discussed at meetings!? The future of our children's education is at stake here. This is NOT a business decision, it is a crucial decision in the future of the quality of Hoover City Schools. This is NO TIME FOR PLAYING FAVORITES. There are many other more qualified candidates who have applied for this position and would certainly take that appointment more seriously than Mr.Veitch has done for the last 5 years!How difficult is it as Council members to read the applications of others and NOT take the easy way out and re-appoint an incompetent member of one of the most important positions in Hoover????

I am tired of the way they conduct business and would like to see the entire group changed.

If you want to show Hoover is open to improvement, the City Council will rotate out the School Board. Fresh faces mean fresh ideas.

I think that 5 years is a long time to be on the school board (for any member) but in this case, I feel like it hs been long enough for Mr. Veitch to have made a more significant impact.

There were 4 other qualified candidates that should be given a chance to serve the Hoover Schools.

It is time for some changes on the school board. Your consideration of the reappointment of Bill Veitch should be cancelled and you should take a look at some of the other candidates that applied for the position. The School Board has alienated many in the community. Appointing someone new to the open position would be the right thing to do try to rebuild some trust and confidence in both the School Board and the City Council.

Re-appointing Bill Veitch to another 5 year term is not only irresponsible, it serves to further erode the public's confidence in the School Board.

We have a city council that isn't in touch with it's community & doesn't listen to the community. I spent endless hours trying to get the word out about the budget cuts a few years ago. The council ignored our opinions...after we spent hundreds & hundreds of hours expressing our views. At the 11th hour, did they finally restore the funding.

Bill Veitch does NOT deserve another five years on our school board. He has done a poor job as President these last two years in my opinion and many others and his lack of knowledge and unpreparedness at school board meetings is embarrassing. There are other candidates who have more experience than Mr. Veitch and will provide fresh ideas and a desire to work with parents and teachers to get Hoover on the right path to greatness.

what has Mr. Veitch done during his 5 years on the Board that the CC reward him with reappointment? Nothing other than act foolish, act ugly to anyone who he does not like and vote as the council instructs. Was there ever any thought on his part about the students in Hoover City Schools or were all his thoughts and actions about football? and artificial turf?

Bill Veitch should not be reappointed to the School Board. To do so will express utter contempt for the idea of choosing the best possible candidate for the post. Bill Veitch's reappointment will further demoralize the faculties of Hoover schools and deprive the system of a chance for far more effective leadership.

Mr. Veitch offered civility and common sense as the greatest strengthes he offered as a school board member and the City Council members voiced a desire for experience on the Board. Was Mr. Veitch demonstrating his civility when he called Dr. Spivey an idiot during a formal Board hearing? How about when he dismissively said the board was not interested in hearing from more "cheerleaders" for Dr. Williams? Perhaps his civility was on display when he labeled citizens "paranoid" for believing anyone was out to fire Dr. Williams – beliefs that turned out to be well founded. Common sense would have dictated rejecting the proposal for Two-a-Days, or does the Board's defense of Mr. Propst's profanity laced tirades advance the cause of civility?

As for experience, in five years Mr. Veitch has not yet achieved the first level of training offered by the Alabama Association of School Board's Academy. He is barely ahead of Board members who have served only a few months in training. Neither experience nor common sense have been in evidence as Mr. Veitch has appeared woefully ill-informed on the most basic of school issues. During his fifth year of service on the Board, Mr. Veitch had difficulty identifying schools in the system, did not know the start day of school less than two weeks from the opening of the school years (though he immediately came up with the correct premier date for Two-a-Days), did not grasp the most basic aspects of state testing, and on and on.

We can and should do far better.

**Question: Do you plan to share your view with the City Council before they make the appointment at Monday's Council meeting?**

38% Yes  
46% No  
16% Other

**The following responses came from the "Other" box.**

Why bother? They never listen to anyone other than the Good Ole Boys anyway.  
already have

No, I don't feel like it would matter anyway.

No - at this point, I don't have confidence in them listening and they aren't easy to reach.

I cannot attend. In addition, if they go ahead with the appointment then that will be remembered that I spoke out against him and invariably it will come back at me sooner or later.

They won't listen to the people of Hoover anymore.

too frightened

I do not plan to publicly address the board. However, I will seek other ways to respectfully express my opinion.

I would fear retaliation.

if possible

I am sharing it here.

Shared views before they voted for Veitch.

Sorry I cannot be there.

The Hoover school site does not list contact information for the Board of Ed. I will not be able to contact them. I don't trust the city council to make the right choice, but I don't feel like I know enough about the other candidates to choose a good alternative

I will call and write my council members. I also will not vote for the same ones again.

I have a scheduling conflict, or I'd be there!

I will send emails to City Council members.

They don't listen so it's a waste of everyone's time!!!!!!