

11 August 2026

Charlotte "Candy" Hayes
106 Turnberry
Smithfield, Virginia 23430
757 404-6235
candy_hayes@danielsblessing.org

Dear Members of the Isle of Wight County School Board Selection Committee:

I respectfully submit my letter of intent for consideration for appointment to the Isle of Wight County School Board to serve the remainder of the current term.

I am seeking this opportunity because I believe strongly in the power of education to transform the lives of children, strengthen families, and build a stronger community. Throughout my life, I have sought opportunities to serve, particularly where children, families, education, and community development intersect.

For more than fifteen years, I have served children and families through Daniel's Blessing, Inc., the nonprofit organization I founded. Through this work, I have provided scholarships, mentoring, educational opportunities, support for children in foster care, and programs designed to help young people develop confidence and leadership skills. Through our Powerful Pearls initiative, I have worked with young women and their mothers to encourage leadership, etiquette, the arts, cultural awareness, and educational travel.

My commitment to education has also included direct classroom service. I volunteered at my church school, teaching children computer skills and the arts. This experience allowed me to see firsthand how important it is for children to have adults who recognize their abilities, encourage their creativity, and help them develop skills for the future.

I also bring experience serving in leadership and governance roles. I currently serve on the **Schoolhouse Museum Board** and the **Virginia Opera Guild Board**, and I serve on the **Norfolk Botanical Garden President's Council of Diversity and Inclusion**. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of board service, collaboration, organizational responsibility, community engagement, and the importance of listening to different perspectives.

As a retired military spouse, I also had the privilege of living in communities around the world. Those experiences gave me an appreciation for different cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives and taught me the importance of adaptability, resilience, and creating welcoming communities. They also reinforced my belief that strong schools are essential to strong communities and that children and families need stability and opportunity regardless of where their journey begins.

My commitment to lifelong learning is reflected in my own educational journey. I earned an **Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Tidewater Community College** and am currently pursuing a **Bachelor of Arts in African and African American History at Old Dominion University**. My educational experiences have strengthened my appreciation for learning, history,

critical thinking, and the importance of preparing young people to become informed and engaged citizens.

I am also honored to have been recognized for my community service, including receiving the **Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia Apple Award**. I view such recognition not as an accomplishment to rest upon, but as encouragement to continue serving.

If selected, I would bring to the School Board a student-centered perspective, nonprofit leadership experience, board governance experience, a commitment to community service, and a willingness to listen and work collaboratively. I believe every child deserves a safe and supportive learning environment, excellent educational opportunities, dedicated educators, and the encouragement necessary to discover and develop their gifts.

I understand that this appointment is for the remainder of the current term, and I would consider the opportunity a privilege and a responsibility. I am prepared to listen, learn, participate, and contribute immediately while respecting the work already being done by the School Board, educators, administrators, families, and community.

I respectfully ask for your consideration. If appointed, I will serve with integrity, compassion, accountability, and a sincere commitment to the students and families of Isle of Wight County.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the children of our community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Charlotte', followed by a large, sweeping flourish that extends to the right.

Charlotte "Candy" Hayes

Charlotte “Candy” Hayes

Summary of Qualifications

Candidate for Isle of Wight County School Board Appointment

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Founder & Community Leader — Daniel's Blessing, Inc.

Founder of a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving children and youth through educational opportunities, scholarships, mentoring, cultural experiences, and support for children in foster care.

- Established and led youth-centered programs.
- Developed scholarship opportunities for students.
- Created educational travel experiences designed to broaden young people's understanding of the world.
- Provides support and opportunities to children and families in need.
- Leads fundraising, community partnerships, volunteers, and program development.

EDUCATION & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- Volunteer educator at church school, teaching **computer skills and the arts**.
- Founder/leader of **Powerful Pearls**, a youth empowerment initiative focused on young women.
- Provides youth opportunities involving the **arts, etiquette, leadership, culture, and travel**.
- Certified Etiquette Coach.
- Advocate for educational opportunity and student development.
- Scholarship advocate and mentor.

BOARD & CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Schoolhouse Museum Board

Board service supporting preservation, community history, and educational engagement.

Virginia Opera Guild Board

Board service supporting the arts, cultural enrichment, and community engagement.

Norfolk Botanical Garden President's Council of Diversity and Inclusion

Service focused on diversity, inclusion, community engagement, and representation.

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia — Apple Award Recipient

Recognized for community service and contributions to the community.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Retired Military Spouse

Lived in communities around the world, developing:

- Cross-cultural awareness
- Adaptability
- Resilience
- Appreciation for diverse perspectives
- Understanding of the importance of strong schools and supportive communities

EDUCATION

Old Dominion University

Bachelor of Arts Candidate — African and African American History

Tidewater Community College

Associate Degree — Criminal Justice

Richard and Jessie Linyear
101 Prestwick
Smithfield, VA 23430
August 10, 2026

The Isle of Wight School Board
9307 Old Stage Highway
Smithfield, VA 23430

SUBJ: CHARLOTTE "CANDY" HAYES

Dear Isle of Wight School Board:

We are pleased to strongly recommend Charlotte "Candy" Hayes for a position on the Isle of Wight School Board. We have known Charlotte for several years through her service on community programs and boards, including her nonprofit, Daniel's Blessing, and her work with a local museum. We have been consistently impressed by her integrity, work ethic, thoughtfulness, and unwavering commitment to children.

Charlotte will bring qualities that are essential for effective school board leadership: a collaborative spirit, a sincere dedication to public education, and the ability to listen carefully to diverse perspectives before making decisions. She understands that strong schools are built through partnerships among parents, teachers, administrators, students, and the community. We have found that Charlotte approaches challenging issues with fairness, respect, and a focus on what will best serve students and families.

In our experience, Charlotte has demonstrated sound judgment and a genuine willingness to engage with others in a constructive and transparent manner. She has shown the patience and professionalism needed to serve effectively in a public leadership role.

We are especially confident in her ability to help guide the district toward academic excellence, responsible stewardship of resources, and an inclusive school environment where every student can succeed. Her past commitment to student achievement and accountability would make her a valuable member of the Isle of Wight School Board.

For these reasons, we wholeheartedly recommend Charlotte for a position on the Isle of Wight School Board. We believe she will serve with dedication, humility, and a clear commitment in the best interests of the students and families of our community.

Sincerely,



Richard and Jessie Linyear
757-408-7305 or jessiebl@charter.net