



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 13, 2010

Stand for Children Endorses School Board Candidates

The upcoming school board elections on August 5th are critical for ensuring strong leadership for our school district during a time when an unprecedented national level of support has been awarded for local education reforms. **Stand for Children’s membership has approved the endorsements of [JoAnn Brannon](#) (District 2) and [Kay Simmons](#) (District 9) for school board.**

Specifically from a questionnaire given to each candidate, Kay Simmons responded that she would “focus on making sure there are resources to schools with high risk students, push for more pre-K programs, and implement graduation programs such as Learning Academies, more alternative schools, and new programs that provide students with new ways to learn such as the new virtual learning program.”

Likewise, Ms. Brannon responded to the questionnaire saying that “[i]t is essential that we meet our commitment in our vision and beliefs to be sure that [students] are provided with knowledge, skills and character that will prepare them to become college or career ready. We must strive to reach the status of GOOD STANDING (AYP) as it relates to NCLB/ESEA. We must increase our GRADUATION RATE for ALL Student Groups. Therefore, I will strongly support all strands of MNPS Achieves First To The Top.”

Stand for Children’s endorsement is based on the following criteria reflected in its membership values and issue agreement:

- Stand for Children supports high quality early education and the state pre-kindergarten program for 4 year olds because it is important to help young children be prepared for kindergarten and life.
- Stand for Children supports the Race to the Top funding and reforms which increases student achievement standards, supports great teachers and leaders, includes the transparent use of student data, and promotes turning around low performing schools.
- Stand for Children supports adequate, sustainable funding for schools.

Founded in 1999, Tennessee Stand for Children brings together people from all walks of life – parents, grandparents, people who work with children, and others who care about the next generation – in order to make children a top political priority. Tennessee Stand for Children members believe we need to invest in our children now – particularly in their education and

enrichment from pre-school through high school – to ensure they have a fair chance in life and to create a better future for Tennessee.

For any questions, please contact Emily Ogden, Nashville Director Stand for Children at 615-477-4150 or eogden@stand.org. For more information about Stand for Children, please see our website at www.stand.org.