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Youth Report on Halifax County

In an interview with Mr. Bryant, a Commissioner in Halifax County, I learned a lot about the job and how he and a few others make decisions concerning the county.

Mr. Bryant and his colleagues handle a lot of issues that deals that the county. They handle the money, school funding, jobs and many other important aspects of the community. Bryant discussed about the several different problems that were wrong with the county and how he and his colleagues planned on fixing the issues. One of the big problems is low quality education in the county. There is a huge achievement gap in this area in comparison to Raleigh area. The County Commissioners plan on employing better teachers that'd help close the gap.

County Commissioners are faced with some of the toughest decisions like selecting a new board member. When I asked Bryant any advice he had for the young people that were interested in politics, he simply replied, "Always do the right thing." He went in specific details talking about the importance of doing the right thing even when you know that you'd get a lot of opposition to your decision or opinion.

At the end of the interview, Bryant invited me to of their meetings. In the meeting, they had to decide who will be the next county sheriff because the last one just retired. They even had a closed session in order to make a final decision. Since one of the County Commissioners had a personal affiliation with the matter, he couldn't join in the decision making. I even learned that a judge must give them permission to go into a

closed session. During the meeting, they dealt with many issues and made lots of decisions. An issue was handled one at a time where someone from the audience would present their case to the commissioners and the commissioners would decide their solutions. There were a few arguments but the commissioners were still able to vote for what they felt was right.

I was very impressed on how the commissioners we were involve in every aspect of the county. It inspired and made me think about how I can serve my community and hoy other