

Representative Rob Wittman
1st District Congressional Youth Forum
December 30, 2008

Meeting Minutes

Present: Tom Minogue, Mathews High School; Danielle Williamson, York High School; Crosby Ritter, Grafton High School; Eddie Ledford, Kecoughtan High School; Rep. Rob Wittman; and Joe Schumacher from Rep. Wittman's staff.

I. Public Policy Issues Discussed

o Education Funding

- Funding from the federal, state and local levels. The Forum members were very concerned about proposed cuts.
- Standards of Learning – The Forum members indicated that the SOL's seem to bring students to the middle and result in teachers teaching to the test.
- College Costs & student loans
- Job opportunities after college
- Salaries of teachers – they need to be increased to maintain a quality instructor workforce
- STEM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) need to be emphasized and valued

o Conservation

- Invest in renewable energy sources; biofuel
- Chesapeake Bay clean-up. Concerned about septic systems in rural areas. Rural area burning laws are a concern, too.

o Transportation

- Elected officials at all levels need to plan for adequate roads
- Invest in high speed rail

II. Other Business

- Look into adding 1st District Youth Forum information to Cong. Wittman's website
- To expand the reach of the Youth Forum – work with High School Clubs (SCA)

III. Date for next Meeting

- Plan for a January meeting to discuss a “strategic planning session”
- Saturday mornings work best for meetings

