

Back in 1928, presidential candidate Herbert Hoover campaigned with the slogan “*a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage.*” The following year, the country fell into havoc, thanks to the stock market crash and the start of the Great Depression.

Hoover was naïve, but Mr. Margiotta, promising new school programs, and approving ones without sufficient funding is disingenuous. New school programs mean more than slapping a sign on a building. New school programs cost additional money. They involve a significant investment in new curricula, facilities, equipment and teacher training. Take Guilford County’s single-sex schools. Mr. Tata, you questioned why Guilford was spending \$14,000 per pupil at those schools—twice what we spend on our students. It’s simple. The programs are of high quality, and are funded to enable the very best teacher training, instructional materials, etc. I’m sure Guilford isn’t throwing money wastefully at those programs. Superintendent Green just understands that adequate investment in his programs—and small class sizes—yield high quality results.

STEM programs...IB programs...all cost extra money. Broughton’s IB program costs an extra \$150,000 per year. And a new breed of program—the high poverty program launched with the opening of Walnut Creek Elementary School—is costing taxpayers \$1 million more annually. Another program, the Renaissance School Plan, comes with an annual price tag of \$920,000. The Race to the Top funds that launched the Renaissance programs will be gone at the end of the school year. How can you promise new programs to parents, when our schools are already underfunded, and it is unclear how existing programs will be able to be sustained.

You are trying to sell a “chicken in every pot” in order to quiet people down who are worried about your student assignment plan for next year. But you are not being honest about the real price tag. We are not that naïve—especially with an election one week from today.