



“Educating Students and the Public about the Opioid Crisis”

Carolyn Weems

Wednesday, April 18, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Princess Anne High School Atrium
4400 Virginia Beach Boulevard
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

After graduating from Clemson University, Carolyn married her college sweetheart, Billy, and moved to Virginia Beach. They coached tennis and baseball at Old Dominion University, started an advertising specialty company and had 5 children. Mrs. Weems has spent the last three decades volunteering in schools, churches and various community groups.

In 2002, Mrs. Weems was elected to the Virginia Beach School Board and re-elected in 2006, 2010 and 2014. Her passion stems from a long family history of educators and her desire to advocate and improve the educational opportunities for students with learning disabilities.

In 2013, Carolyn and her family's lives were drastically altered when her daughter, Caitlyn, died from a heroin overdose. As a result of her painful journey, Mrs. Weems speaks and works at the national, statewide and local levels to promote awareness and education about the devastating opioid epidemic our country and community are experiencing. She shared her story in "Heroin, the Hardest Hit," a documentary released by the Virginia Attorney General's Office. She also leads the Outreach Team of the Hampton Roads Opioid Work Group to help develop holistic community driven solutions to the current drug crisis. She is especially proud of being instrumental in expanding the health curriculum in Virginia Beach and testifying for HB1532 that ensures opioid specific education be implemented at all public schools in the Commonwealth. As a result of her motivation and determination, Mrs. Weems is the recipient of the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award and the Human Rights Commission Award.

Mrs. Weems has established Caitlyn's HALO, a nonprofit organization dedicated to Helping Addicts and Loved Ones. Please feel free to contact Carolyn at caitlynshalo@gmail.com.

VB SPARK Education Association promotes policies for Virginia Beach City Public Schools that hold students to the highest academic and civic standards of excellence, and ensure that the resources and programs that are necessary to meet those standards are provided in a fiscally responsible manner.

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