

Meet Dr. Paul A. Tisdale

Paul Tisdale is a longtime education leader, civic leader and second-term Biloxi City Councilman.

Paul, a Biloxi native and second son to local physician Dr. William and Connie Tisdale, was educated in Biloxi Public Schools, and earned bachelor's and master's degrees and a doctorate. He served as an elementary school teacher and administrator in Biloxi Public Schools before being named superintendent of the Bay-Waveland School District in 1992. He returned to Biloxi in a district administrative post, and in 2004, a year before Katrina struck, he was appointed to lead Biloxi Public Schools, which at the time had 6,000 students, a staff of 600 and a \$50 million annual budget.

Nearly 30 days after Katrina, school re-opened with slightly more than 3,100 students. As superintendent, Paul was at the center of decisions to re-purpose or close several Biloxi schools to match Katrina-driven population shifts in Biloxi.

During his seven-year tenure as superintendent, three Biloxi schools were named National Blue Ribbon Schools, technology was significantly enhanced, the curriculum was revised to meet more stringent standards, quarterly student testing for mastery was implemented, and, for the first time, the entire school district was regionally accredited.



After retiring in 2011, Paul began attending City Council meetings to see city government in action. In 2013, he ran unopposed for Councilman, Ward 5, representing west Biloxi. He has established a record of accessibility, creating a website, www.tisdaleforbiloxi.com, and publishes a weekly email to inform residents of Ward 5 and others interested.

Paul is a member of the Biloxi Business Men's Club, Magnolia Lodge F & AM No. 120, Biloxi First and Biloxi Maritime & Seafood Museum. He is a past president of the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce and volunteer for Excel by 5 Early Childhood events. He also has served on numerous education-related boards and committees.

Paul and his wife, the former Wanda Hughes, have two children, Errol (wife Bethany Dailey; grandsons, Will and Finn) in Columbia, S.C., and Virginia, in Biloxi. He and his wife attend the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer.
