

1a The purpose / goal of education is best summarized by Abraham Lincoln's quotation: "I can only say that I view it as the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in." Education promotes equality among race, nationality, and gender, and offers the best chance for an individual to progress up the socio-economic ladder. Promoting the highest standards and requirements should be the top priority of MCPS. All students should be expected to achieve their highest potential.

1b. Every aspect of MCPS needs reform, including curriculum, budgeting, transparency in decision making, stronger commitment to "Up County" needs, stronger commitment to G&T Magnet program, and wellness and health.

2ab. Decision making at MCPS is not transparent and many current Board Members prefer closed meetings and secrecy. I believe transparency and truthfulness should be the top priorities for MCPS when it comes to decision making and the budget. I support more investment into the G&T and Magnet program. I do not believe the standards should be lowered to receive entrance into these programs.

3. It is a must that MCPS do a better job of administrator, principal, teacher, and support staff recruitment to ensure that MCPS employees reflect our County's population. Diversity is one of our County's greatest strengths.

4. The Executive and County Council have failed MCPS when it comes to holding developers accountable to making the proper investments for new school and new library construction. The Board of Education needs to engage and work closely with the Council to ensure new construction developments have adequate resources set aside before construction begins in order to accommodate the increase in student enrollment.

5. The BOE must work closely with our State Senators and Delegates to ensure Montgomery County receives its rightful share of state investment dollars. This is not currently happening. For every one dollar of state tax a Montgomery County resident pays, the state returns less than 30 cents in state spending to Montgomery County. Montgomery County is subsidizing other MD counties; this must change as we have our own unfulfilled needs here in Montgomery County.

6. Mental health is a critical issue. Social-emotional wellness needs more investment and attention with stronger outreach and educational programs. I question whether the proliferation of social media has been a positive change for our society and would work to encourage students to engage in more meaningful activities and develop real world communication skills.

7. In college I participated in a study abroad program in China. I have a deep love and respect for Chinese history and culture, and as a Board Member I would welcome a stronger focus on Asian studies as part of a strengthened MCPS curriculum.

8. This is a controversial and highly debated topic. Property values, percentage of free meals, reading / math proficiency, and home proximity are all important aspects to consider when drawing school boundaries.