

1. Vision for MCPS

1a. what do you think is the goal of education in general? What should be the priorities of MCPS? Why?

The goal of education in general to provide academic knowledge that will allow every student succeed to his/her fullest potential. It is also to help form well-rounded citizens that then go to College or the workplace with a strong educational foundation and the basis to become life-long learners.

MCPS should prioritize getting students well prepared for college or career while fostering a caring school climate, creativity, civic responsibility, and social emotional experiences that produce well-rounded individuals.

1b. where do you think MCPS needs to improve?

I think MCPS needs to improve in the following ways:

- Providing rigorous instruction at all levels.
- Recruiting and retaining the best teachers and principals.
- Improving graduation rates.
- Language access for parents that don't speak English.
- Promoting Career and Technical Education options.
- Communicating to staff and families regarding changes.
- Creating welcoming and positive environments for all children.

2. Meeting the Special Needs of Gifted and Talented (GT) Students

In the FY19 Operating Budget, the Office of Accelerated and Enriched Instruction (AEI) has been effectively eliminated. As a Board of Education member, what initiatives will you undertake to ensure that the needs of GT students are met, pursuant to COMAR 13A.04.07?

Central office positions were greatly reduced in this budget in order bring more staff to the schools and classroom levels. One of my issues areas is ensuring that students receive rigorous instruction to meet their needs. We cannot teach to the average student but must ensure that teachers have the support they need to differentiate instruction and that principals are able to create GT programs in their schools in order to reach a greater number of GT students that can benefit from it.

2a. Transparency

Recently, there are increased voice to expand the GT/Magnet program. However, the future plan of the county and policy change at current center programs remained vague to many parents and students.

This year's middle school field test for the "center programs" experienced a sudden and massive change in admission criteria and policy at Down County .It caused widespread confusion and frustration for many students and parents.

How would you increase the transparency of MCPS decision making and admission practices in the future? How would you ensure that stakeholder inputs are effectively incorporated before a massive policy change?

I agree that MCPS need better community engagement in the way that it makes big decisions and how it communicates the outcome of those decisions. I would support consulting with groups like CAPA and the APASAAG before decisions are being made and throughout the implementation process. Not only can the process benefit from their input, but they can also help others understand the final outcome of these decisions. I believe transparency is important and related to the need to improve communication to key stakeholders.

4. Diversity of MCPS Teacher and Administration Workforce –

Asian American educators are severely underrepresented in MCPS' professional workforce and very few administrators in Principal position or above director levels are Asian Americans. Would you be committed to increase the representation of Asian Americans in MCPS' leadership and administration rank? What is your plan?

I strongly believe that our teachers and administrators should reflect our community. Recruiting and retaining the best teachers and principals that reflect our community is one of my top issue areas. I have advocated for the diversification of school staff for years and will continue to do so. My plan involves growing our own diverse workforce. We need to allocate funding like we are doing right now for para-educators. In this current initiative, para-educators get the education they need to get certified to teach. I think we need something similar so that our own and diverse students get scholarships and financial support to go to college to study education. In return for the financial support, they would have to come back and teach in our system. While we cannot finance everyone's education, we would have to set targets to help recruit the staff that we need the most.

5. Capital Investment Planning:

With increasing enrollment year after year, many MCPS schools are overcrowded and its buildings rapidly deteriorating. If elected, how would you set funding priorities to address the school infrastructure investment?

As long as we have the same amount of money, we will be competing for limited resources in our school construction funding. We must demand that our state officials fully fund school construction and increase the current available resources. We must also work with the county to ensure that schools can support new developments that are being planned for in various areas of the county. Finally, we must think creatively about space and come up with non-traditional spaces where specialty programs could take place. For example we might explore placing specialty programs that could be offered in companies in the industry sector related to the field of study. I think we should also explore the use of other county facilities or un-used office space in parts of the county. This is not a solution for all students but may help alleviate overcrowding in some schools.

6. Advocacy for MCPS in Annapolis:

Families invest living in Montgomery County keep a keen eye on the strength of our school system. This year county residents are doing their part of keeping our schools great by paying 8.7% more on property tax. If elected, how will you advocate for more state funding and what creative ways do you have to find other revenue options?

I agree completely that most families move to Montgomery County because of our great school system. That is why I'm committed to a 100% graduation rate. This indicator is often used as measure of the strength of our system, and we must do a much better job to bring the graduation rate up for all of our students. I think that we need actively communicate to county and state leaders that our success is an economic development imperative. As stated above, our highly educated workforce moves to the county because they know the schools are good and their children will get a world-class education. We need to remind our state officials of this every day. We need to campaign actively to ensure that the casino revenues will fund education as they were intended to. This will be on the ballot and we must get everyone to vote in favor of it. Finally, I think that we should use the Kirwan commission report that shows that our schools are well underfunded as a rallying cry to pressure our state officials to make things right for our students.

6. Bullying, School Climate, and Student Social-Emotional Wellness Bullying/Cyberbullying, mental health, and overall social-emotional wellness are pressing issues for many MCPS families. If elected, what initiatives would you take to mitigate the impacts of the aforementioned issues? What strategies will you direct MCPS to pursue to confront cyberbullying?

I believe that school climate is very important and is set on the first day of school and thereafter by the school leadership. I believe that schools should support peer-to-peer student initiatives so the students themselves are helping to come up to solutions to this problem. I think that counselors need to be freed up from their workload so that they can counsel students on more than just class schedules. Our student are stressed and counselors are needed to support them. In terms of cyberbullying, I think that parents need more information on what they can do to better monitor their child's use of the internet. Schools need to improve ways in which bullying and cyberbullying is reported so that students both bystanders and the victims are reporting the behavior and getting the support they need. Both school and families need to be equal partners in keeping our students safe on the internet.

7. Honoring Cultural Heritage

The Asian American minority group has a distinct cultural heritage and history in this county. For our younger generation to grow up feeling self-confident and accepted, we believe that our culture and history need to be acknowledged, respected, and taught in school. We found that in, in MCPS Middle School social studies or high school history classes on Asian American history and culture, currently, there are very limited materials on Asian American Culture, and very limited time are spent on them, even though Asian American students count for 14%~15% of the MSCP student population. How can we integrated more Asian American history and culture content in our curriculum? How will you increase the cultural proficiency, particularly Asian American culture proficiency, among MCPS staff?

The history curriculum is set at the state level. I think that most people would agree that our diverse community's cultural heritage is not reflected appropriately in our school curriculum. I would advocate to the State Board of Education to address this since it is of such importance in the cultural identity of so many of our students in MCPS. In terms of increasing cultural proficiency, we must hire more Asian American teachers, administrators, and staff. Professional development should be offered on Asian American cultural proficiency as is being done for Latino cultural proficiency. Principals should engage Asian American parents in their schools so that parents can advise principals on cultural differences and cultural assets that they and the staff need to be aware of.

8. School Boundary

As new schools are built, many traditional school boundaries will be, or are being redrawn, what is your top 4 criteria in evaluating school boundary options? Why are these criteria important to you?

1. Proximity, access and walkability to school for neighboring populations. This is important because schools are community hubs and access and proximity help build community. Close knit communities support each other and this is beneficial to families and students.
2. Socio-economic and ethnic diversity. It is important that we maintain socioeconomic diversity in our schools and avoid concentrated poverty where possible. Ethnic diversity will better prepare students to live in our ever more diverse county and world.
3. Bus routes times to schools. Transportation is very costly to the system so we want to minimize wherever possible additional lengthy bus routes. Students also lose time on bus rides that could be spent on enrichment, studying, or spending time with their families.
4. Capacity of the school buildings to be stable over the next years. It is important the school buildings be well utilized (not under or over enrolled). The boundary process must take careful consideration of the changes that are coming in student population to make the best use of the school buildings.