

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 is to provide people with the opportunities to actual their full potential. It is meant to provide opportunities and open doors that might not have been there before. I think the priorities of MCPS need to support that. We need to have curricula that students are engaged by and want to continue to learn about. We need it to be applicable to their lives and something they can use with them outside of the school building. We need to make sure that our education is also not just focused on academics, but the whole child. We need to make sure our students are set up for success socially and emotionally as well. This includes making sure we have the properly trained behavioral health specialists in the right places and more of them. I also feel a priority of MCPS needs to be utilizing the assets of our stakeholders.

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

I think MCPS can improve in the areas of strengthening stakeholder and Board communication as well as better utilizing our resources.

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?

I want to look to our highly qualified educators to continue to build on the efforts of creating curricula that is rigorous, applicable, and meaningful. We need to be flexible in our thinking and utilize the resources we currently have in order to meet the needs of all students. If we create learning experiences that support the Universal Design for Learning, we will be better able to meet the needs of our GT students. The reformation of curricula would provide students with choices and multiple means of engaging in the learning, receiving the information, and demonstrating their understanding of the information.

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?

Transparency in the actions of the Board is a must. I fully believe in the Board making informed decisions

with the input of stakeholders and communicating those decisions in means that are most accessible to all community members. This transparency and relationship building is a focus on my campaign. I am focusing on hearing from stakeholders on what they would like me to advocate for on their behalf.

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?

As a Board member I will be committed to increasing the representation of qualified Asian American in MCPS’ leadership and administration positions. I plan on keeping the doors open to welcome staff willing to provide and represent the true diversity of our county.

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?

First, I would look to redistricting to help evenly distribute areas where one school is over capacity and the other is under capacity. Then look at each school, not just based on age, but on quality of the school building itself to determine what improvements and renovations can be made.

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 would advocate for a strong community voice. I am proponent for organizing town halls, in person and virtually, for stakeholders to speak about what they need in order to keep our schools great. I think we should also look at areas in which we can purchase alternative high quality items at a lower price. We need to work smarter and not harder when it comes to budgeting.

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?

Serving as an assistant principal in Montgomery County, I encountered a significant number of students and families distress. The students were challenged by high levels of stress, anxiety, and depression caused by a variety of academic, personal, and social issues. With limited school-based resources and training, I found myself struggling to meet the needs of these students and their families. Furthermore, it became clear that despite our best efforts, MCPS

could do more to effectively respond to the social-emotional needs of our students, lowering a hurdle to academic achievement. Out of the desire to build my capacity, I decided to pursue a degree in social work. Although many questioned my decision, I now find myself even more convinced of the critical need to provide greater social emotional support for our students.

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 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?

Montgomery County Public Schools defines equity as “high expectations and access to meaningful and relevant learning for all students so that outcomes are not predicted by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, language proficiency, or disability.” I chose to run for the School Board because we can do a better job of granting this access to the students of Montgomery County, as well as challenging ALL students with high expectations. Equity is how I define justice.

MCPS provides excellent training to support teachers who strive to be more “culturally proficient.” This is not enough. I would support moving our system not towards culturally proficiency, but towards “cultural humility.” The three domains of *cultural humility* include 1) Lifelong learning & critical self-reflection, 2) Recognizing and challenging power imbalances for respectful partnerships, and 3) Institutional accountability. These domains speak to directly to the equity domain.

As a school board member it is imperative that we engage our students through a curriculum that reflects the diverse cultures within our community, including Asian American. It is clear that our curriculum is in need of reform in order to align it to the developmental psychosocial needs of our students and to make it culturally relevant.

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?

My top four priorities include:

- Consideration of community voice: It is important to me to solicit and consider the voice of parents and stakeholders within the community. There is a collective wisdom that the Board can use as source of information in making decisions, and I would like incorporate that voice into the Board’s decision. Doing so would attribute to greater support of our schools and system.
- Ensuring that total school enrollments are balanced throughout the school levels: Recent correlations have made between the correlation between the average number of students in a

grade level and student achievement. A significant number of schools in MCPS have a disproportionate grade level enrollment.

- Balance of resources within school cluster: The current plan is for high schools to have a unique allocation of resources to support college and career readiness. It will be important for all students to have equitable access to a cluster of resources and opportunities.
- Distance of school from home: I support local community schools. Although it is important to balance enrollments and resources, every effort should be made to have students matriculate through a school feeder pattern in the area in which they live.