

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 MCPS should be to provide a quality education for all children. Because that is the mission of a public school system.

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

MCPS needs to improve providing a quality education to economically disadvantaged, minority, and special needs students. It also needs to improve access to its most challenging and magnet programs for students who can benefit from these programs.

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 would expand and create programs to make sure that programs were available to students who need them.

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 would make every effort to remain in contact, and to reach out if necessary, to parents who are involved in programs before voting to significantly change them. I would also be sure to communicate the reasons and logic behind any changes that were made and would be happy to meet with concerned citizens.

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 am committed to increasing diversity among our teachers and staff. I firmly believe it is beneficial to students to have teachers who look like them and understand their culture. In order to do this, I support the idea of offering scholarships to MCPS students, loan forgiveness, and pay incentives to teachers who are willing to come and teach in some of our most diverse schools.

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?

In order to address and meet school infrastructure needs, first I would encourage parent engagement and cooperation at all levels to increase funding. Second, there is a new set of criteria under development for determining the needs of schools on an objective scale to help prioritize the order of improvements and new buildings. In most cases, schools in the most disrepair, or the most overcrowded would be addressed first, followed by schools of decreasing need. I would also look at the populations most impacted by the change as an area of consideration if schools were otherwise comparable in score.

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 work to increase parent engagement, especially in our schools with higher poverty rates, and those in most disrepair. My plan is to expand wrap around services, and reach out to parents in the community in places where they feel comfortable. MoCo is often misrepresented as only a rich county in Annapolis and these parents, aided by students and pictures, make the strongest case for our fair share of state revenues. We would coordinate with state and local representatives to make this case as well as addressing the issue of dedicated gambling revenues. In addition, I plan to attract parents to schools that have lacked advocacy and high standards through attractive whole school magnet programs supported by busing. As the quality and expectations of these schools improve, surrounding property values will rise, and parents will be attracted to schools beyond our noted "W's" as they can afford a good school for less money. The net of this is improved districts and increased revenues to the county for re-investment in schools.

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?

First, I support the initiatives to increase both cultural sensitivity and trauma informed training for teachers. I also support the development of social/emotional learning and restorative justice as means for developing empathy in the younger years in order to help prevent these problems as children age. These measures also help identify and address mental health issues. Addressing and preventing cyberbullying requires students and their peers to be willing to trust adults enough to “out” situations when they happen. Additional counseling support is necessary for kids to develop relationships with teachers and counsellors where they feel comfortable doing this. Consequences for cyberbullying should be significant and include restorative practices where perpetrators are given the opportunity to learn and empathize with victims. Parents and teachers can help by monitoring access to social websites and limiting their children to known “friends” who can be tracked down and addressed.

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?

Cultural sensitivity training and hiring in more diverse teachers (see above) will help in increasing the number of teachers with whom Chinese American students and other under-represented groups feel comfortable. While children do receive Chinese history as part of studies in World History, these offerings can be provided more in-depth through G/T and IB studies as well as through course offerings at the High School level.

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 criteria would be 1) Maintaining diversity at our schools (socio/economic balance) . 2) Creating strong schools and programming that serves the student population (stability) 3) School utilization 4) Geographic proximity/neighborhoods. These criteria reflect the standards set up by MCPS, but with slightly different emphasis. Socio/economic diversity has been shown to benefit all students, which I have experienced as a parent. School populations may have different needs,(ESOL, G/T, IB, etc). and resources should be provided accordingly to create

stable school populations. School utilization is a key factor because we need to maximize our resources, and schools are very expensive to build. Furthermore, neighborhoods build community and stability around schools and should not be subdivided unless it is unavoidable due to utilization concerns.