

*The Montgomery County Council of PTAs
presents:*

*A Community-Focused,
Public Education-Oriented*



Inside are positions on issues pertaining to Montgomery County Public Schools by candidates for the following political offices:

- *Montgomery County Executive*
- *Montgomery County Council,*
- *Montgomery County Board of Education*
- *Maryland State Senator*
- *Maryland State Delegate*

Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations

MCCPTA

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Instructions: Please fill out this form by March 13, 2018 for inclusion in the 2018 MCCPTA Guide for Voters. E-mail it to: Questionnaire2018@mccpta.org
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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Amano, Lynn

Office: Board of Education **District:** Board of Education District 003

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: lynnamano@gmail.com / Phone: / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 No, I do not support this move. Quality of education here in MoCo drives our economic growth and should not take a back seat . We need to engage all stakeholders to advocate for our fair share of county and state funds, and pursue new funding sources such as private/public partnerships.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 Yes. We need to collaborate with the State and remain open to new ideas and approaches that have worked in other parts of the state or similar districts across the country.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 MCPS needs to provide each child with opportunities for challenge and growth, meeting them where they are with valuable supports, such as ESOL, special needs, and wraparound services, and providing quality instruction that gives them opportunities and choices for their future.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 First, language accessible and culturally sensitive communications. Second, outreach to locations beyond the school. Third, better promotion of programs and options available to kids. Last, easy access to elected officials and staff.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 I am committed to making every child feel safe through policies and actions. Diversity in staff, culturally sensitive instruction and communications, social/emotional learning, anti-bullying, restorative justice practices, handicap accommodations and more are important.



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Amano, Lynn

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|---|---|
| 4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? | 4.2 The school system needs to set guidelines to keep our children healthy and safe. Within those guidelines, schools and teachers should have the support and flexibility to meet regulations in ways that work best for them and their students. |
| 4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? | 4.3 Yes, health and nutrition education and exposure should be better integrated, and at the earliest ages possible, while children are still open to new foods and experiences. This will increase demand for healthy options and provide a better economy of scale for the Food and Nutrition Division. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. | 4.4 Counselors at school are important for students who are suffering from anxiety, depression, and other stresses in situations where they may not feel comfortable talking to parents or peers. We need more counselors in our schools, to serve this essential function for our students. |

5. Safety

Answers

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| 5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments | 5.1 I believe the Police Department has done a good job in supporting SROs in our schools, including providing recruitment incentives. MCPS could also consider training support, educational credits, and scholarship incentives for SROs willing to serve our schools. |
| 5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? | 5.2 [No response requested] |

6. Growth

Answers

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|---|---|
| 6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? | 6.1 I am committed to bringing resources and creative solutions to address overcrowding and protect class sizes for students in our schools. Stakeholder advocacy for funds, construction cost review, creative use of spaces, and public-private partnerships are necessary to meet our capacity challenges. |
| 6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? | 6.2 [No response requested] |
| 6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? | 6.3 [No response requested] |

Candidate: Blaeuer, Maria



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Blaeuer, Maria

Office: Board of Education **District:** Board of Education District 001

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: maria.blaeuer@gmail.com / Phone: / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 I am concerned by this. Needed school construction/modernization should not be subordinated to other capital projects; many schools are already at/over capacity. MCPS is Montgomery Co.'s greatest asset, and attracts new residents and businesses; it should be treated as the economic asset it is.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 Yes, if those incentives make economic sense when considered in light of larger MCPS budget, I would support them. However, any incentives that limited the potential for community engagement and parent input on school needs, I would be deeply concerned by.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 I support community schools as a means to address out of school barriers to student achievement and programs that keep experienced teachers in higher need schools. Consistent with the WestED report, I support increasing the staff to support and identify students with disabilities.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 MCPS must improve its communication with the families of students with disabilities, especially around their dispute resolution rights, and affirmatively reach out to communities who are underrepresented in MCPS' special programs.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 MCPS must proactively encourage inclusive schools, and not just respond when there are problems. I support efforts to recruit teachers of color, the continued use of a diverse and inclusive curriculum and alternatives to school exclusion, including restorative justice.



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Blaeuer, Maria

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| 4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? | 4.2 Local regulations can be used to encourage public participation and dialogue about important issues, and are an important part of democratic school governance; I support the use of the regulatory process to engage with the community and reflect the priorities of community. |
| 4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? | 4.3 Yes, health and nutrition should be integrated into the curriculum in a variety of subjects, and I hope to see more in-school food preparation as one result of that integration, as well as greater access to diverse foods, including lower-sugar selections, especially at breakfast. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. | 4.4 I support increasing the number social workers and psychologists available to support students and collaborate with staff (as raised in WestEd report). I also support community schools and additional partnerships and co-location agreements for mental health care providers (ex. Linkages to Leaning). |

5. Safety

Answers

- | | |
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| 5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments | 5.1 I support the current policy stating that SROs have no role in enforcing MCPS policies and serve primarily as a resource to MCPS staff and liaison between MCPS and MCPS. I am concerned that the 40 hour training for SROs is not sufficient, and would examine that as a board member. |
| 5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? | 5.2 [No response requested] |

6. Growth

Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? | 6.1 We need to plan for growth, instead of just reacting to growth, so that we have the capacity to serve all of families with the level of excellence they deserve. MCPS must be part of the county's larger economic development planning from the inception of those plans. |
| 6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? | 6.2 [No response requested] |
| 6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? | 6.3 [No response requested] |

Candidate: Docca, Judy



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Docca, Judy

Office: Board of Education **District:** Board of Education District 001

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: doccajud1@verizon.net / Phone: 3014427591 / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Equity issues for speakers of other languages, special education students, African Americans, and females are very much on everyone's agenda. The Superintendent is re-organizing the staff to place more teachers who are certified, but in other jobs, into the classroom as fulltime employees (most with 25 students). This will greatly assist with our effort to provide more small classes. Small classes are felt to assist with individualized programs.

All staff members are receiving culturally competent information related to teaching techniques. Every staff member is responsible for making sure they interact appropriately with our diverse population. School improvement plans will reflect academic activities for all. They are charged with encouraging students and parents of African American and Latino backgrounds to take advantage of career, college and community preparedness. Achievement in Career Education (ACES) is a partnership with Montgomery College, which encouraged and supported students while taking non-remedial classes at which the pilot group was successful. Career Programs are being expanded – Cybersecurity, Aviation,



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Docca, Judy

Medical Careers, Fire and Police cadets and financial curriculum – available at Edison and also in other high school locations. Some academic scores have improved in the last two years. More programs in gifted/talented areas will be opened in home schools.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families? 3.2 See 3.1

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 The BOE and Superintendent are requiring diversity training but intentions to improve the success of African American, Latino, Special Education, and English Language learners would be evident in the school improvement plan. The School Improvement Plan (SPI) will be examined for evidence of success. The administration and the BOE will follow through with making clear that cyberbullying will not be allowed in MCPS without appropriate consequences.

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?

4.2 MCPS and the BOE must continue to work closely with MCCPTA and other parent support groups to provide appropriate information about cyberbullying and hate crimes. The new technology chief is providing programs, which are appropriate for use in school. Health and Wellness are serious concerns and schools have systems to identify concerns. All staff (including the BOE) had to complete a battery of web programs related to suicide prevention, bullying, sexual abuse prevention, and substance abuse. This gave all staff the same message with directions on identifying and reporting mental health and other social/emotional issues. In addition, Montgomery County regional student government association (MCR) has scheduled an initial student workshop on social/emotional issues in February.

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?

4.3 Communication with all families is difficult. Phone or Internet can reach the majority of families. The BOE encourages staff members to learn about students in their care. There are some we cannot reach electronically. It may mean a personal contact staff member or by NAACP Parent Council and Latino Achievement Councils to identify and contribute to their knowledge of navigating the school system. We know that many of our parents work more than one job and/or use public transportation. It is difficult to attend evening or daytime meetings. We must remember that parents still have an interest and a vision for their children even if they are not at the latest PTA meeting. More should be made available about food or nutrition. The health curriculum is continually being updated to provide important information about nutrition. More fresh fruit and vegetables are being offered to students in the cafeteria.

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.

4.4 The BOE and the Superintendent are pleased to have assistance from Montgomery County Health and Human Services in the area of family services through linkages to learning and wellness centers in high school. Each year in the budget, more counselors are added to assist with group and individual concerns related to health and mental health issues. We need to continue to make this a priority.

5. Safety

Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments

5.1 The police department and MCPS security office director are in close contact and share pertinent information to keep schools operating safely. The superintendent and the safety director join in the training of police officers who work in buildings with adolescents. Relationships of respect should ensure between students and security staff. Restorative justice is practiced in at least 20 schools and more are added each year until these practices are used in every school. When police officers are chosen as student resource officers, they receive training in community policing and



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Docca, Judy

interacting with youngsters. De-escalation techniques are considered important.

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?

5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth

Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuing capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?

6.1 The Superintendent and staff are looking at schools, which have space, which are contiguous with over-crowded schools. Some programs are being considered for moves into commercial buildings. The enrollment is growing in middle and high schools in the next 5 years. Re-opening Woodward High School would alleviate over-crowding at Walter Johnson, Einstein and Kennedy. Seneca Valley will have a larger building, doubling its capacity. In addition, several career and technology programs will open with the new school, providing more opportunities for career studies for up-county students.

6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?

6.2 [No response requested]

6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?

6.3 [No response requested]

Candidate: O'Neill, Patricia



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: O'Neill, Patricia

Office: Board of Education **District:** Board of Education District 003

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: pat4boe@aol.com / Phone: 3018074042 / Website: www.patoneill.org

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 No. I support an increase in General Obligation bonds, and increased state funding. In the medium to long-term, it is time for a dialogue by county leaders and stakeholders on viable options for increasing the revenue stream that can be dedicated to school construction.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 The Commission's report recommends that the state and local jurisdictions try new approaches to school construction and urges the state to encourage innovation by local jurisdictions. I agree and support structural and financial incentives that encourage collaboration.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 The Commission's report recommends that the state and local jurisdictions try new approaches to school construction and urges the state to encourage innovation by local jurisdictions. I agree and support structural and financial incentives that encourage collaboration.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 Technology permits us to tailor our communications to meet the needs of our MCPS community. We must meet our students and parents where they are. It is a lot of work, but it will pay off. Our translation and interpretation resources must be available in the languages that our students speak at home.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 MCPS classrooms must be a safe, welcoming space for students and adults. I have worked with my colleagues at the local and state level to put in place policies that send the message that our classrooms should be safe and welcoming places with zero tolerance for bullying and sexual abuse.



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* Candidates for State office, fill out 1.1-1.4; 2.2-2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.2; 4.4; 5.2; 6.1
* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: O'Neill, Patricia

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? | 4.2 Regulations should have at their utmost aim, the safety and security of our students. We should be familiar with the research and infuse the findings in our regulations. We should also ensure that there is adequate capacity to enforce the regulations. |
| 4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? | 4.3 Yes. This is a work in progress in MCPS. I am committed to working with my colleagues on the Board and with MCPS staff to continue reviewing existing policies and regulations, with the aim of ensuring that wholesome health and nutrition practices are infused in all aspects of our curriculum. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. | 4.4 I am excited about the work we are doing to address the social and emotional well-being of students. Our counselors must have the capacity to engage in mental health and counseling services. We need a comprehensive audit of all MCPS mental health and counseling services. |

5. Safety

Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments | 5.1 MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department enjoy great collaboration and both sides have demonstrated a commitment to the safety and well-being of our students and adults. We should consider financial incentives to recruit officers who have a calling to work with students in the classroom. |
| 5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? | 5.2 [No response requested] |

6. Growth

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? | 6.1 We must always provide the classrooms that our students need. I am committed to remaining open to all viable options to ensure that we have the capacity for our ever-growing population. I am also committed to exploring and implementing creative solutions that keep class sizes small. |
| 6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? | 6.2 [No response requested] |
| 6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? | 6.3 [No response requested] |

Candidate: Pykosh, Paul J.



Instructions: Please fill out this form by March 13, 2018 for inclusion in the 2018 MCCPTA Guide for Voters. E-mail it to: Questionnaire2018@mccpta.org
* Candidates for State office, fill out 1.1-1.4; 2.2-2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.2; 4.4; 5.2; 6.1
* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Pykosh, Paul J.

Office: Board of Education **District:** Board of Education District 005

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: ppykosh@gmail.com / Phone: / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1



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 * Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Pykosh, Paul J.

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? 4.2

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? 4.3

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. 4.4

5. Safety Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments? 5.1

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? 5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? 6.1

6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? 6.2 [No response requested]

6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? 6.3 [No response requested]

Candidate: Simon, Laura



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Simon, Laura

Office: Board of Education **District:** Board of Education District 003

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: lbsimon001@gmail.com / Phone: 3019834981 / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 It is important to be budget conscious with how we allocate funds and use our capital budget. Projects should be prioritized based on how they enhance the classroom experience. For example, before throwing technology into classrooms we need to fully research the educational value.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 Yes depending on the incentive.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Technology in the classroom must help children thrive and not impede their performance. MCPS has the best teachers in the nation and we have to ensure that they can do their jobs and that there is as much incentive and reward to teaching at each and every academic level.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 Communication must be easily accessible for all students and families. Additionally, Students and families should be encouraged to share any and all communication with the school that affects the health and welfare of the child.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 There should be no tolerance for bullying including cyberbullying. Students should feel supported by the school and feel safe and respected and trust that necessary action will be taken.



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 * Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
 * Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Simon, Laura

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?	4.2 There is a health and safety vaccum when it comes to technology. Technology was put in the classroom without a health body advising on all these issues. The AAP of MD and health experts across the state support the MD Dept of Health developing safety guidelines and MCPS should be supportive.
4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?	4.3 Yes. Nutrition education needs to follow current science and research. Good Nutrition gives children the fuel to thrive.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 We need more mental health and counseling services.

5. Safety

Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments	5.1 I have witnessed good cooperation but in light of what is going on across thecountry with school shootings, there is always room for improvement. We needto do whatever it takes to recruit the best officers to keep children safe at school.County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments?
5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?	5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth

Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuing capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?	6.1 Technology is expensive and seductive and may look like a panacea, but what kids need most are engaging and dynamic teachers.
6.2 PLANNING.The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?	6.2 [No response requested]
6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?	6.3 [No response requested]

Candidate: Wolff, Brenda



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Wolff, Brenda

Office: Board of Education **District:** Board of Education District 005

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: Brendawolffcampaign@gmail.com / Phone: 3012608760 / Website: www.brendawolff.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 The County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities. Education must be a larger part of the County budget each year because not only does the number of students enrolled grow but also many of these new students have language or learning challenges.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 Yes. The Commission has made recommendations that would provide flexibility in the school construction structure and review process. We have sufficient expertise in house to manage the school construction project and are in the best position to know what we need. The result is a flexible process a

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 We must increase diversity in our staff and hire teachers that believe that all children should be provided quality instruction; provide training and support for new teachers on effective practice; Implement continuous training for teachers on cultural competence and implicit bias and train staff on

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 In order for any efforts of communication to be successful, there has to be (1) trust and honest communication; (2) Continuous and meaningful training in cultural competence and implicit bias; and (3) engaging teachers and families in joint decision- making when possible. Parents as well as students

4. Health and School Climate

Answers



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Wolff, Brenda

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is | 4.1 I am fully committed. Student achievement is impacted by this and their belief that they are welcome in the school. We must (1) demand fair treatment of all and a zero tolerance of discrimination; (2) teach respect for all and model that respect with each other and (3) have open and honest communication |
| 4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? | 4.2 We don't need more regulations. We need nurses and mental health professionals in schools to address the numerous challenges. We need partnerships with other county agencies to find monies to address these needs. We are concerned about WiFi towers next to our school buildings. We need balance |
| 4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? | 4.3 es. We should be teaching students about nutritional choices in elementary schools. We must demonstrate our commitment to healthy choices by the food and drink choices we make available in schools. Students should learn about the correlation between learning and proper nutrition. We are teaching |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. | 4.4 I would support an increased allocation for school-based mental health supports and services. I would like to see continued discussions around mental health and student stress. We also need to consider how we can better prepare students to cope with stress at every stage. This is a critical component |

5. Safety

Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments | 5.1 There is good cooperation. The level of trust between the MCPS, the Police and the Community needs work. The incentives that should be considered to recruit for School Resource Officer include competitive pay, competitive benefits, recruiting officers who grew up in and know the county and officers |
| 5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? | 5.2 [No response requested] |

6. Growth

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? | 6.1 There are desirable class size goals but what is important is whether there are resources that are available, whether there is skilled teaching staff and whether there is a supportive environment for both teachers and students. The BOE, County Council, the community and legislature must continue to |
| 6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? | 6.2 [No response requested] |
| 6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? | 6.3 [No response requested] |

Candidate: Arbuckle, Ryan



Instructions: Please fill out this form by March 13, 2018 for inclusion in the 2018 MCCPTA Guide for Voters. E-mail it to: Questionnaire2018@mccpta.org
* Candidates for State office, fill out 1.1-1.4; 2.2-2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.2; 4.4; 5.2; 6.1
* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Arbuckle, Ryan

Office: Board of Education At Large **District:** N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: ryanarbucklecampaign@gmail.com / **Phone:** / **Website:**

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Arbuckle, Ryan

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? 4.2

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? 4.3

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. 4.4

5. Safety Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments? 5.1

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? 5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? 6.1

6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? 6.2 [No response requested]

6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? 6.3 [No response requested]

Candidate: Edib, Timur



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Edib, Timur

Office: Board of Education At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: timur@ediblaw.com / Phone: 3012518830 / Website: www.timuredib.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 No! We need to realize the difference between the words "growth" and "development" and change our paradigm of thinking. Focus on vocational education, new funding streams including direct fees on construction projects to internalize infrastructure costs.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 I read the report, same point, the paradigm must change. I will support anything that helps students achieve their goals. We should find ways to engage the business sector in our schools

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Equity and equality are not the same. Every child deserves to be their own best. That doesn't mean every child should receive the same "high quality" instruction. This is the core of my campaign: vocational education and life skills training are as important as preparing students for college.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 Empower neighborhoods so students are ready, willing, and able to learn! Teaching parents about the school "system," by ensuring all understand the words and deeds of the schools. We may need to provide health care, shelter support, or ESOL to families to empower all to be better citizens.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 When I was an Education Commissioner in Phoenix we worked with the Arizona Republic newspaper to engage parents in education. When I was a legislative analyst I worked on addressing the issues of truancy, pregnancy, dropout, and delinquency. Inclusion is why I am running for the Board.



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Edib, Timur

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| 4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure? | 4.2 It is not the regulation that matters. We need to empower neighborhoods to create a village of inclusion. It is the shared value that every child has a right to be their best that will guide us. We will foster an environment of mental and physical well being. We will foster positive peer pressure. |
| 4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? | 4.3 Yes. We should teach life skills on how to budget, shop, cook, eat, and exercise. We will teach them know how to read and understand the ingredients, and we will help them learn skills to balance their lives, but we will let critical thinking skills guide them in their choices. |
| 4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. | 4.4 This is the core reason I am a Board candidate. It will be 20 years since Columbine next year. After Parkland, we need to do more. We must make sure every member of our community is engaged, and that everyone has the ability to be their best. That includes mental, emotional, and physical well being. |

5. Safety

Answers

- | | |
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| 5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments | 5.1 It is not the solution and it is not the problem. If we focus on empowerment of the students, we don't need to worry about policing at all. Positive peer pressure works, the data supports it, and I am more about making sure every student is ready, willing, and able to learn. |
| 5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? | 5.2 [No response requested] |

6. Growth

Answers

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| 6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? | 6.1 Very High! I will continue to engage neighborhoods to fully appreciate the value of education. By empowering students to be their best will we be able to reduce the expense of government, increase the tax base and the standard of living of our community |
| 6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? | 6.2 [No response requested] |
| 6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? | 6.3 [No response requested] |

Candidate: Ibrahim, Marwa Omar



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Ibrahim, Marwa Omar

Office: Board of Education At Large **District:** N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: marwa.ibrahim@gmail.com / Phone: / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Ibrahim, Marwa Omar

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in 4.2 areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? 4.3

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. 4.4

5. Safety Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments 5.1

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? 5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? 6.1

6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? 6.2 [No response requested]

6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? 6.3 [No response requested]

Candidate: Reiley, Julie



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Reiley, Julie

Office: Board of Education At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: reiley4education@gmail.com / Phone: / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 School construction is a priority. Council must meet MCPS's needs & MCPS must provide detailed & reliable data on enrollment & demographics. While we benefit from equitable funding across the state, we need to increase our share of state funds to address increasing enrollment & diverse needs.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 State / LEA collaboration is essential & we must make smart use of local and state experts on school construction / financial planning & funding. However, benefits of traditional school facilities, a community approach to design & the needs of families must not take a back seat to "innovation."

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Increase accountability in IEP processes & access to continuum of delivery models & instruction; more paraeducators / co-taught classes; smaller classes, esp. schools impacted by poverty; expand programs such as ACES, Linkages to Learning; expand CTE & highly gifted programs, Expand pre-K programs.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 Listening is a priority. MCPS should hold Town Halls throughout the year and county, with BOE or MCPS leadership, on open & specific topics. In addition to being televised, ways to access & pose questions remotely should be investigated. Communication must always be accessible for non-English speaking families.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Reiley, Julie

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| <p>4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is</p> <p>4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?</p> <p>4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?</p> <p>4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.</p> | <p>4.1 As a Latina from L.A., growing up I felt the hurt of hate speech. Racist/sexist/anti-Semitic /LGBTQ/Muslim/Disability speech makes children feel "less than" & even unsafe. We need consequences & lessons/programs/events that teach inclusion & acceptance, including inviting community representatives.</p> <p>4.2 Regulations may increase accountability/safety; sound science must form the basis for ascertaining whether a regulatory based approach is appropriate; employ evidence-based / best practices when writing & implementing regulations; equitable implementation & understanding the consequences is vital.</p> <p>4.3 We should teach a lifetime of good health/eating habits for many reasons, e.g., healthy students perform better in school & grow into healthier, happier, more productive adults. Good physical health in teens promotes positive emotional health. Food Div. practices should promote healthy eating.</p> <p>4.4 Now more than ever we must maintain an unwavering commitment to the mental and social/emotional health of our students. We must ensure adequate funding of school psychologists and PPW who can assist with additional resources. We have to make sure parents know that mental health concerns may entitle the student to supports and services.</p> |
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5. Safety

Answers

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| <p>5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments</p> <p>5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?</p> | <p>5.1 It's collaborative but we must pursue 2017 Security report recommendations (e.g., gang activities/intervention). Incentives such as ensuring FT assignments at all HS and portable prof. development, e.g., foreign language or safe/effective interactions w/ teens w/ spec. needs.</p> <p>5.2 [No response requested]</p> |
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6. Growth

Answers

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| <p>6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?</p> <p>6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?</p> <p>6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?</p> | <p>6.1 We have got to work with the county council / planning board to make sure we have the land & capital we need, with developers paying their fair share; we must build anticipating growth, gathering and sharing detailed data on demographics and needs. We really need to commit to smaller class sizes.</p> <p>6.2 [No response requested]</p> <p>6.3 [No response requested]</p> |
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Candidate: Rippeon, Brandon Orman



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Rippeon, Brandon Orman

Office: Board of Education At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: brandononboard@gmail.com / Phone: 3019776070 / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 School construction should be a top County infrastructure priority. New development projects like Crown Farm and Clarksburg, etc. must include real money for new school construction, and where appropriate a new public library.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 I believe the entire MCPS system needs reform, I would support trying new ideas to school construction and support incentives to drive State/local collaboration.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 Montgomery County is an equitable community, with uncommonly kind and generous taxpayers and homeowners. The "opportunity gap" and "achievement gap" exist because some Montgomery County parents are not doing the things needed to ensure their own child is academically and socio-economically successful. The BOE and the County government need to work together to engage parents of some communities to ensure the parents understand and are held accountable for the success of their own children.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 I think MCPS communicates well with students and families. I support the continuation of current MCPS outreach programs.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Rippeon, Brandon Orman

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| <p>4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is</p> <p>4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?</p> <p>4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?</p> <p>4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.</p> | <p>4.1 One of Montgomery County's greatest strengths is its diversity. I look forward to equally serving all its residents. I believe all schools deserve to be respected and valued.</p> <p>4.2 I support using best practices and the highest standards when it comes to safety, health, and wellness. I am concerned about WiFi exposure and I do not support cell phone towers being placed on school property.</p> <p>4.3 Health and Nutrition should absolutely be better integrated into MCPS curricula. For a County which boasts of its high level of sophistication and progressive values I am disappointed in MCPS when it comes to this issue. I am not satisfied with the quality and health of the food MCPS serves. I do not support the sale of soda or candy or chips from MCPS vending machines, even after "school hours" are over.</p> <p>4.4 Mental health is a topic which has been overlooked for many years. It is heartbreaking to see the recent suicides of MCPS students. Mental health is a top priority for me if elected to the BOE. I believe students have become too attached to, and dependent on social media. I would like to see students engaged in more real life activities and forms of communication.</p> |
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5. Safety

Answers

- | | |
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| <p>5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments</p> <p>5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?</p> | <p>5.1 MCPS school staff and the Police have a good relationship and cooperate well. In recent years MCPS has lowered its standards when it comes to disciplinary action. I disagree with this decision. It is unfortunate we are having to discuss spending more of our scarce resources on more school security. School security is another area where poor parenting has caused harm to the entire system.</p> <p>5.2 [No response requested]</p> |
|--|--|

6. Growth

Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?</p> <p>6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?</p> <p>6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?</p> | <p>6.1 New development projects approved by the County government must include a collateralized and guaranteed commitment from the developers to make proper investments in school capacity.</p> <p>6.2 [No response requested]</p> <p>6.3 [No response requested]</p> |
|---|--|

Candidate: Robertson, John A.



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Robertson, John A.

Office: Board of Education At Large District: N/A

☐ Questionnaire Returned

Email: johnrobertsoncampaign@gmail.com / Phone: / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Robertson, John A.

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in 4.2 areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?

4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies? 4.3

4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students. 4.4

5. Safety Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments 5.1

5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not? 5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small? 6.1

6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans? 6.2 [No response requested]

6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers? 6.3 [No response requested]

Candidate: Silvestre, Karla



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* Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Silvestre, Karla

Office: Board of Education At Large **District:** N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: karlasilvestre2018@gmail.com / Phone: 3015872752 / Website:

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 I understand the need to maintain our county's bond rating. Many people move to the county because of our great school system. MCPS is an asset to this county and state and should be at the top of the CIP priorities. We must also get our fair share of funding from the State for school construction.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 I support innovative approaches for school construction as long as they result in high quality buildings for school and community use as we have here in Montgomery County. I would welcome procedural flexibility as well. We must look for innovation to solve our Capital Improvement challenges.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 We need to recruit and retain great teachers and staff and provide them with the training and support so that they may: 1) provide instruction at the level that the student needs, 2) challenge and inspire students, 3) be aware of their bias, and 4) address the complex needs of various populations.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 MCPS should greatly increase communication with students and families through all means possible. They should also be more proactive about communicating on decisions that affect the whole system as well as school communities. They should constantly survey and test what is working and what is not.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 Positive school climate must be established and reinforced at every opportunity. Peer-to-peer initiatives must be supported to engage the school community in kindness and inclusion. Staff should be more accessible should a student need to report an incident or seek help.



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VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Silvestre, Karla

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?	4.2 It is critical that we have accountability in the implementation of policy to ensure that the policy is achieving its desired outcome. Annual updates on new policies is one way to accomplish this. This ensures that progress in being made in areas such as those mentioned here.
4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?	4.3 Eating healthy foods from a young age will benefit children for the rest of their lives. This could be better integrated into the classroom beyond health class and be put into practice in the lunch room. A more informed student will choose healthier options thereby impacting current MCPS practices.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 All schools need more counselors so that they can address mental health. More partnerships can be established with nonprofit organizations to provide this service like at Wellness Centers but more capacity is needed there. Parents need more information on how to get help for their children.

5. Safety

Answers

5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments	5.1 I think that we have been given a wake up call with the recent school shootings. MCPS and MCPD need to better coordinate mass shooter training and evaluate the effectiveness of existing practices. The best candidates will become SROs if they feel they will be supported and effective in their job.
5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?	5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth

Answers

6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?	6.1 I am committed to ensuring that capacity keeps pace with growth. Beyond working with County Council and the State delegation to get the resources needed, we need to be involved in our county's planning processes and use some signature programs to attract students to schools that have capacity.
6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently broke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?	6.2 [No response requested]
6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund for school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?	6.3 [No response requested]

Candidate: Sugg, Stephen



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* Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Sugg, Stephen

Office: Board of Education At Large District: N/A

☒ Questionnaire Returned

Email: stsugg@email.wm.edu / Phone: 2029574813 / Website: www.suggformoco.com

1. State Funding + Policies

Answers

Background In June 2016, the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, otherwise known as the "Kirwan Commission," was established in order to review education financing formulas/ measures and determine how best to prepare students to compete in the workforce and global economy.

1.1 FORMULAS. How should the Montgomery County delegation to the General Assembly respond if the Commission recommends legislation that reduces State contributions to Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) even as it accounts for 40% of Maryland's school enrollment growth?

1.1 [No response requested]

1.2 CASINO REVENUE. Should surging revenue from State-sanctioned casinos be used to supplement-- and not supplant-- school funding in the Education Trust Fund? How should this be addressed?

1.2 [No response requested]

1.3 PRE-K. Do you support making early childhood education accessible to all Montgomery County residents? How should it be funded? Is this strictly a State issue? A County issue?

1.3 [No response requested]

1.4 LOCAL AUTONOMY. What is your position on local school board autonomy? If supportive, what measures would you take to ensure State wide office holders cannot infringe on key decisions, such as school start- and end-dates?

1.4 [No response requested]

2. Capital Improvements

Answers

Background Concerned over the County's debt, the Council voted in October to reduce General Obligation bonds over six years by \$180 million. According to MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith, the County's lower spending affordability guidelines will harm MCPS capital project possibilities.

2.1 SPENDING AFFORDABILITY GUIDELINES. Do you support this move? What measures should be taken to finance MCPS' growing capital improvement needs— both upgrades to aging infrastructure and capacity expansion? Should school construction take a backseat to other County infrastructure priorities?

2.1 The move is troubling. School facilities must be a top priority; officials and the public need to recognize great schools as vital to MOCO's economic MCPS receiving its fair share of state capital needs funding is something that the Board ought to fight harder for in Annapolis.

2.2 STATE CAPITAL FUNDING. The Montgomery County Public School System accounts for approximately 18 percent of Maryland's school population, but only receives about 12 percent of state capital funding. Should this be remedied? How?

2.2 [No response requested]

2.3 NEW CIP APPROACHES. The Maryland 21st Century School Facilities Commission recommends trying new ideas or approaches to school construction to provide more State funds for key project costs or procedural flexibility. Would you support incentives to drive State/local collaboration to allow for such opportunities?

2.3 I am open to new and creative ways of addressing school construction. However, any incentives and flexibility ought not substitute for adequate core funding for school construction. Too often, I've seen politicians tout tweaks while gutting the core funding needed for long-term results.

3. Communication and Addressing Equity

Answers

3.1 ACHIEVING EQUITY. What measures should be put in place to ensure every child (regardless of disability, geography, socio-economic conditions, ethnicity, or other factors) receives high quality instruction to meet his/her potential?

3.1 -MCPS lags (greatly) in prioritizing physical activity, play, nutritious foods, and related measures that impact learning-readiness and make children healthier and more resilient. Especially low-income children. Addressing such will impact instruction--as I've seen in great schools.

3.2 OUTREACH. What should MCPS's priorities be in improving communication with students and families?

3.2 I have devoted much of my career to empowering low-income families. The key is listening--unfiltered, and on their terrain. MCPS doing this more would lift.

4. Health and School Climate

Answers

4.1 DIVERSITY INCLUSION. Describe your commitment to fostering a climate of cultural sensitivity and tolerance. Beyond condemning hate speech, please discuss the need to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued for being exactly who he/she is

4.1 I suggest lifting student voices and fostering their leadership toward all feeling safe, respected, and valued. After the recent tragedy in FL, students there showed us that they can lead now--quite effectively. MCPS students I've met are bright, kind, and represent all walks of life. Empower them.



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 * Candidates for County Council Exec, fill out 1.3; 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1-6.3
 * Candidates for Board of Education, fill out 2.1; 2.3; 3.1-3.2; 4.1-4.4; 5.1; 6.1

VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate: Sugg, Stephen

4.2 STANDARDS. How should regulations be used to advance school standards in areas ranging from physical and mental health wellness to digital safety and WiFi exposure?	4.2 MCPS should use regulations and all other means to remedy its dearth of health & wellness promotion (e.g. increasing PE, recess, play, and addressing fast-food-like menu options in cafeterias). This would also aid mental wellness efforts; there is a link b/w physical activity and mental wellness.
4.3 HEALTH/NUTRITION. Should health and nutrition education be better integrated into MCPS curricula? How might this impact MCPS' Food and Nutrition Division practices and policies?	4.3 Yes! I have written extensively about a MD school (non MCPS) that leads the nation in this area. School gardens=a start. But more instruction across the curriculum ought to be delivered outdoors & in the community. Truly prioritizing health would require healthier lunch & breakfast choices.
4.4 MENTAL HEALTH. Please describe your commitment to ensuring adequate mental health and counseling services for MCPS students.	4.4 Sustained funding for mental health services & counseling is worth fighting for. Also, increased focus on social-emotional learning & increased physical activity will contribute to student mental health. But adequate professional services are essential.

5. Safety	Answers
5.1 POLICE/MCPS. What is your perception of cooperation between MCPS and the Montgomery County Police Department to advance school security? What incentives should be considered to recruit the best officers for Security Resource Officer assignments	5.1 I've seen good examples of cooperation b/w MCPS and law enforcement, but I am open to additional opinions In researching SRO best practices, specialized training is important. I would solicit ideas from top-performing SROs for ideas re: recruiting additional high-quality SROs.
5.2 WITNESS OF ABUSE. Should Maryland join 48 other States in enacting Failure to Report laws? Why/why not?	5.2 [No response requested]

6. Growth	Answers
6.1 ENROLLMENT. With MCPS enrollment growing at 2,000 to 3,000 students per year, what is your commitment to ensuring capacity keeps pace with growth, and class sizes remain small?	6.1 Large class sizes harm teacher-student relationships and impact hard-to-measure (yet important) elements of education. Addressing such requires political will; it is a priority for me. Ensuring capacity requires holding officials in Annapolis & Rockville accountable. No excuses.
6.2 PLANNING. The Council recently boke with convention, requiring key development plans to consider impacts on MCPS growth and for Planning staff to review all parcels for new school construction. Should school land be a top public amenity in such plans?	6.2 [No response requested]
6.3 SUBDIVISION. In the next Subdivision Staging Policy revision, would you support a dedicated fund fo school land acquisition, financed in part by land developers?	6.3 [No response requested]