



Montgomery County Taxpayers League
GUIDANCE FOR VOTERS: BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATES, 2024

Montgomery County Board of Education **At-Large**

Candidate	Political/Work Experience	Experience: Budget Oversight Large Orgs	Closing Opportunity Gap	MCPS' Biggest Problem/Need	Attract & Retain Effective School Staff	Teen Mental Health Resources	Parent of MCPS Student(s)	Why are you Running for BOE	School Resource Officers (SROs)	Opt-Out Curriculum for Religious Beliefs
Lynne Harris	Incumbent, BOE member	BOE Chair, Fiscal Management Committee	Professional development, geographically accessibility programs, talented teachers in underperforming schools.	Systemwide quality assurance monitoring & proactive collaboration.	Grow your own program, ensure all feel safe, welcome, valued. Strengthen central support for schools.	Increase Psychologists, counselors & School Wellness Centers.	No	Build inclusive & affirming schools	No SROs. Restorative Justice & DHHS interventions.	No
Sharif Hidayat	Retired Police Officer	Finance Committee member for \$1M budget	Early detection, individualized equity intervention & active parental involvement.	Safe learning environment, phone use during instruction.	Safe & professional environment, hold central office accountable to employee complaints.	Limit cell phone usage & screen time in school.	Yes , Elementary School	Safer schools	Yes SROs in MS & HS. Build trust with School Staff & students	Yes
Melissa Kim	DCPS Deputy Chancellor, Teacher, Principal	Not Provided	Expand access to advanced courses, equitable funding models, community engagement & data-driven decisions.	Not Provided	Competitive salaries, wellness programs, career advancement, supportive workplace, address workload & class size.	Expand school clubs & activities, Student-led solutions.	Yes , Elementary School Middle School	Improve the quality of curriculum & innovation	Yes SROs	Yes
Jonathan Long	Director of Operations at Credit Union	Manage \$3M average annual Contracts	Diverse & inclusive curriculum, recruit & retain diverse educators, provide training on DEI & accessibility.	Demoralized Staff, lack of transparency & excessive legal fees.	Work life balance, reduce paperwork & signing bonus for high demand roles.	Sports programs, school counselors, psychologists & social workers.	No , Private Special Education, Middle School	Improve SpEd student outcomes, Teacher work-life balance	Yes SROs in HS. Deescalation & rapid response to emergencies	No
Rita Montoya	Advocate, Public Defender/Attorney PTA Leader	Not Provided	Individualized Teacher led tutoring, small group teacher learning.	Lack of Community trust.	Increase Educator compensation through increased MCPS budget.	School Social workers & Psychologists.	Yes , Elementary School	Give voice to Elementary School, BIPOC & SpEd families	Yes SROs in some HS. Anti-racist/biased Trained	No
Fitzgerald Mofor	Paralegal, Educator	Not Provided	More innovative schools, literacy coaches & personalized learning.	Achievement gap.	Establish oversight committee to investigate anonymous complaints.	School Psychologists, School Wellness Centers, after-school activities.	No	Improve student outcomes, better wage for para-educators	Yes SROs in schools. No Restorative Justice.	Yes

Authorized by Montgomery County Taxpayers League, Esther Wells, President. Gordon Brenne, Treasurer, April 2024.

Sources of candidate and voting information:

- League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Voters Guide 2024
- MoCo360 2024 Voters Guide, Board of Education
- Montgomery Perspective School Board Questionnaire: MCPS's Biggest Problem
- Montgomery Perspective School Board Questionnaire: Experience with Budgets
- Montgomery Perspective School Board Questionnaire: Opt-Outs for Parents
- Montgomery Perspective School Board Questionnaire: Police Officers in Schools
- Vote411 information for Voters
- Contact information for all 2024 Board of Education candidates – Maryland State Board of Elections, candidate information by county