

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Board of Education Candidates

Tara Battaglia

Are you or any of your immediate family members employees of CCPS or members of CCEA or MSEA? **No.**

Are your children or grandchildren students in CCPS? **Yes. I have two children that are in CCPS (Manchester Elementary and North Carroll Middle School).**

Do you have financial or budgeting background or experience to qualify you to hold a position that controls a \$350 million budget? **A \$350 million budget, No. I do have financial/budgeting experience for a former organization. I was the PTA Treasurer for Charles Carroll Elementary for two terms (four years). The Executive Board met every July to work up our yearly budget income/expenses. Even though it may have been \$25,000 at the most, we gave a detailed report of income and expenses at every PTA meeting monthly. When money belongs to the public, it should be the obligation of those representing to show exactly how much comes in and for what; how much is spent and exactly where. That money belongs to the tax payers. If at anytime, someone from the public asks questions, those questions should be answered.**

Do you believe it was necessary to close any schools in the CCPS system? **I feel it was not necessary and still is not necessary to close more. Studies have been done that stated a K-8 would have replaced the three oldest schools in Carroll County and it was important to keep communities together. That should have been done and still could be done.**

Do you support funding over the MOE? **Yes. The calculation given to the County should be more, however there does need to be accountability where the funds go.**

Do you support education vouchers? **For me, it's a case by case basis. If a child is not getting the education they need and parents have filed reports regarding the situations, then yes! Examples for a voucher could be IEP issues, 504 issues, bullying, anxiety, and/or unsupportive staff.**

Do you support expanding Career and Tech? Yes, absolutely! I would even like to see Career and Tech offered to adults in the evening (money coming into the school system). Vocational Programs are so important and needed. We need to look at the spaces our schools may have to have these programs (especially computer based) in our High Schools. To make sure students are given the proper opportunity to attend the Career and Tech, I would like to see students complete five hours of an internship in that field they are interested in to be sure it is something they want to peruse. Many times, students will drop the program after two weeks and that spot is left open and not able to fill. Partnerships with local businesses could even help with funding or sponsorships for these programs.

While the Board of Education race is “non-partisan”, party affiliation is a strong indicator of a particular set of values and ideals. What is your political party affiliation? I am a Republican.

What is or should be the role of the CCEA in our school system? To me, they should support the Teachers/Staff that want to speak freely. During the closures in 2015, many Teachers told me that they were told not to have a opinion publicly regarding the closures and not to speak out at the hearings. Teachers and Staff should be able to speak out individually, not have rep do it from them. No Teacher/Staff should live in fear of losing their job for having a voice.

Who will you represent if elected to the BOE? I will represent the students, the families, the staff and the communities! I want the kids, the parents, the Teachers and Staff, and the communities to be able to come to me and talk to me about what is concerning them. There should be no generic email responses of “thank you for your email”. I want to be reachable. I want people to feel they are actually being listened too and not feel dismissed or ignored. I would be working for the public because that’s who voted for me to have the job.

What is the most important thing voters should know about you? I work for them! I work for all students, all families, all staff and all communities in Carroll County.

How do you plan to work with other elected officials to accomplish what is best for students and taxpayers? Good solid relationships need to be formed and work together to solve issues. There can’t be blaming for issues. All parties need to be open and honest with the public. All parties must learn from the past mistakes to make sure they are not made again. All parties need to listen to the public when making decisions and take the publics suggestions into account.