

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Board of Education Candidates

Muri Dueppen

Are you or any of your immediate family members employees of CCPS or members of CCEA or MSEA?

No, neither I nor any member of my immediate family are or have ever been employees of CCPS or members of CCEA or MSEA.

Are your children or grandchildren students in CCPS?

Both of my children attended CCPS since Kindergarten. My daughter graduated from South Carroll High in 2017 and my son is currently a sophomore there.

Do you have financial or budgeting background or experience to qualify you to hold a position that controls a \$350 million budget?

I have had budget responsibility in several professional capacities. Most relevant were the years I worked in marketing and membership management at nonprofit scientific societies. In addition to being responsible for overseeing revenue generating activities for one professional association, including the advertising and promotions expenses, I was responsible for developing and managing my departmental budget and participated in upper level management budget discussion and decisions.

Do you believe it was necessary to close any schools in the CCPS system?

Yes.

Do you support funding over the MOE?

Yes. I do not generally believe that mere Maintenance of Effort is sufficient to deliver a high quality educational system, especially in light of inadequately funded state mandates.

Do you support education vouchers?

At this point in time, I have not seen a compelling, evidence-based justification for the use of vouchers in Carroll County.

Do you support expanding Career and Tech?

Yes. I believe that the Career and Tech Center is so exceptional in large part because it is effectively managed in a consolidated, centralized facility. The much-needed multi-million-dollar renovation further supports the notion that it is an appropriate time to expand as part of addressing that need. While I do believe that there may be some programming that could be offered in other high schools, it is not practical for several reasons to simplistically assume that the most popular programs can be cost-effectively and successfully expanded in that manner.

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 do not personally believe that party affiliation is the best mechanism for understanding another person’s values and ideals. In fact, I know that for many people it is just as much, if not more so, a pragmatic decision. In addition, this is not just a “non-partisan” race, Board of Education member is a non-partisan position. Most people seem to agree that political bias should be kept out of the classroom and I firmly believe it should not exist in the boardroom either. I am not running to further any partisan agenda and the less the public can easily identify any partisanship in me, the more they can trust me to make independent and nonpartisan decisions. Any voter who feels that this information is vital in their assessment of me as candidate is welcome to contact me to have a one-on-one conversation about the matter.

What is or should be the role of the CCEA in our school system?

I believe that CCEA should be a force for ensuring the professionalism and professional treatment of educators as well as a being a change agent for education policy and pedagogy that improves student outcomes.

Who will you represent if elected to the BOE?

First and foremost, the current and future students of Carroll County Public Schools.

What is the most important thing voters should know about you?

Voters should know that I am an enthusiastic believer that strong schools are instrumental in setting students up for future success and well being and that they are vital to a strong community.

How do you plan to work with other elected officials to accomplish what is best for students and taxpayers?

I intend to build respectful collaborative relationships that leave lots of space for challenging the status quo and each other. We should have a common agreement that it is important to support and celebrate our school system while demanding cost

effective and creative solutions for ensuring excellent educational (and economic) outcomes. I am an honest, tough, fair, friendly, and smart teammate.