

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Board of Education Candidates

Jason Helton

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

No, however I personally volunteer on the Community Advisory Committee as the representative for Hampstead Elementary School

Are your children or grandchildren students in CCPS?

I have two children currently enrolled in Carroll County Public Schools:

Cameron, 9, in 3rd grade

Julianna, 6, in Kindergarten

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

While I have not managed a budget of that magnitude, I have managed many multi-million-dollar projects.

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

I feel that the previous round of closures was performed too quickly, and the financial benefits have not had time to be made apparent. I would have preferred rezoning, and then possible closures if necessary rather than the course CCPS took.

Do you support funding over the MOE?

I do...I feel a renewed emphasis on education will cement America's relevance on the global stage. We need new innovators and leaders, and by providing our children the best education, that will ensure the creation of those innovators and leaders. In order to do that, funding will be necessary. While I don't support unilateral tax hikes, we need to find creative ways to raise that funding.

Do you support education vouchers?

I do in certain circumstances. As the parent of a special education child, it would be beneficial for me to be able to enroll him in a school suited for his needs. I think vouchers can be useful for students and families that don't fit into the traditional mold, so long as that doesn't detract significantly from the funding of public education.

Do you support expanding Career and Tech?

I am a huge proponent of expanded Career and Technical education. With the population of skilled tradespeople (Plumbers, electricians, etc) declining and the cost of college increasing and forcing students into debt, we need to provide options that will allow our students who wish to, to graduate from high school ready for a career, not just a job.

I would like to see renewed interest from private companies, perhaps even solving some of the county funding woes by sponsoring career and technical programs. As someone who benefitted from an apprenticeship, I would very much like to see that model of training return in some form.

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 registered and voting Republican.

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

I feel the CCEA’s role of supporting teachers is valid, but beyond that, shouldn’t be involved in higher level decisions.

Who will you represent if elected to the BOE?

My focus if elected will be the students of Carroll County, and making decisions with their best interests in mind.

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

I am not a politician, but am simply a father who wants to serve and ensure my children have the best education possible.

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

I think initially we need open and honest communication and transparency. I look forward to representing students and voicing their needs and concerns to other elected officials.