

Republican Central Committee Questionnaire for Board of Education Candidates

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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?

Two of our six grandchildren attend CCPS. The other four do not live in Maryland.

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

Yes, I do. I feel that the skills I have acquired through work and the variety of organizations should transfer well to the Board of Education. I have worked all of my adult life in construction. I started at Charles J Miller as a laborer, working summers while in school. I was Vice President at Miller from 1978 through 2004. I went to Stewart & Tate, Inc., in York, PA, as Executive Vice President in 2005 and continue there today. At both companies, I have been active in budgeting, finance, estimating, contract negotiation, project management, hiring and managing employees and more. If elected to the Board of Education, I will reduce my workload to half time, at most, so I can put the proper attention into the School Board.

While working, I tried to stay active in both occupational and community organizations. I was a board member and treasurer of the Associated Utility Contractors of Maryland. Through that organization I was active in lobbying and contacting government groups. I served on specification committees that met with Carroll, Frederick, and Baltimore Counties and Baltimore City. We analyzed their current specifications and suggested modifications that could improve their services and also be more cost effective. I am currently an active member of the Harford County Contractors Association.

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

Unfortunately, it probably was necessary. But, the last rush to close schools was horrendous. The Governor gave us 3 times more stop gap funding than any other county and said—*It is my belief that this additional financial aid to Carroll County will allow local leaders to defer school closings being considered for next year so that time is available for a more comprehensive plan tailored to insure that students' educational*

needs are protected during a transition year. Even though almost 40% of our funding comes from Annapolis, we ignored his advice. The closures may have saved the BOE some money, but I'm not sure I believe that. Even if it did, the County Government lost money by maintaining and dealing with closed buildings. The net result was a cost to taxpayers. I can only hope that everyone has learned from the mistakes. Now, the BOE set up the RSCC committee. It is public and transparent. But, I'm not sure the committee was given sufficient guidance. I'm glad they chose to split into two sub-committees. Unfortunately, we left East Middle, the school in the worst condition, open. This committee has some tough decisions. We need to do comprehensive redistricting and address the money we are pouring into deteriorating buildings. It will be interesting to see their recommendations.

Do you support funding over the MOE?

Historically, we have always funded over the MOE. With declining enrollment, that will probably continue. But, regardless of funding over the MOE, we need to stay fiscally responsible.

Do you support education vouchers?

No

Do you support expanding Career and Tech?

I think we have good career and tech offerings. We do need to constantly evaluate them and stay current with technology. We need to make sure that the maximum number of students can take advantage of the options available. We do not need a new building. Many of the current classes could be in different buildings that are currently not being efficiently used. We need to use available classroom space at Westminster and also around the county at other high school facilities. This would free up space in the current Tech Center to expand capacity for the programs that are not functional in a traditional classroom space. We also need to look at how students can apply and be accepted into these programs. Traditional academic standards for acceptance do not always apply to the opportunities at the Career and Tech Center. "Hands on" students who would do well in some of the technical classes do not always have the highest GPS's.

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?

Republican

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

The CCEA is the voice for the rights and interests of educational employees. They represent the employees in negotiations. Their group also endorses political

candidates and attends BOE meetings, budget hearings and other public meetings. I feel that is an appropriate role.

Who will you represent if elected to the BOE?

The students and the taxpayers of Carroll County.

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

I am a fiscal conservative and, particularly with the current inflation, do not feel that it is necessary to raise our tax rate. But, I will fight for student achievement in all areas and at all levels. We need to insure that our students are safe and our teachers are fairly paid. I feel that the skills I have acquired through work and the variety of organizations in which I have participated should transfer well to the Board of Education.

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

We need transparent and open communications with the taxpayers, County Commissioners, Delegates, Senator, Comptroller and Governor. I have already tried to foster communication with the current office holders and candidates. If elected to the Board of Education, I will reduce my workload to half time, at most, so I can put the proper attention into the School Board. I feel that I must be available to visit schools, participate in events and attend meetings to help represent our students and the taxpayers of Carroll County.