

At Large Council Candidate

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On a scale of 1 to 100: Do you agree with this statement? The primary public agency responsible for the socio-emotional problems of children and youth caused and exacerbated by the pandemic should be the DCPS public schools.	70
Teacher turnover in DC's public schools are among the highest in the nation, and the pandemic has made teaching even more challenging. What do you think can be done to address teacher turnover in DCPS?	
<p>First and foremost, after experiencing a mass exodus from the District, it is imperative we address teacher turnover in our DCPS. Teachers, like our public safety workers and small business owners, share responsibility in uplifting our community ecosystem. Teachers need to be allowed to utilize all of the educational tools in their toolbelt while being transparent with parents and guardians. A great way to help teachers feel the impact of their work is to address the issue of affordable housing with workers. When you have skin in the game with the communities that you help build and the families you foster a relationship with, job satisfaction rises. Lastly, with the amount of money being spent per child in DC, there should be state of the art teaching techniques which help aid teachers. This could be enticing for teachers to be on the precipice of new or modified teaching techniques that work. I believe DC has the advantage of learning from educational models from around the country and world that have shown proven success.</p>	
The pandemic has highlighted the need to provide equitable student access to technology as part of a 21st-century education. What will you do to ensure DCPS supports comprehensive technology planning and funding to support student learning?	
<p>The way of the future is through technology, and our children should have a front row seat in how to adapt and become more agile in their approach to future markets and job opportunities. I will ensure given proper measures that we set aside funding for schools so that it attracts a learning environment for teachers, students, and their parents alike. The days of no internet available for children is coming to an end. It is imperative to be proactive and not reactive and invest intelligently and responsibly in the future generation.</p>	

<p>DCPS school communities have concerns with the quality of building repair and maintenance including HVAC systems in older as well as newly modernized buildings. How can the Council address their concerns with DCPS facilities operations and maintenance?</p>	
<p>As an marine engineer, I recognize how difficult it can be to conduct maintenance endlessly. Too often we provide cheap, ineffective, band-aid solutions when in reality we need to invest in infrastructure which will be durable for longer durations. It is not fiscally responsible to constantly throw dollars at a partial solution when perhaps a bigger sum of money can mitigate future costs. For example, while I was at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, the decision on a federal level was decided to invest in geothermal energy. Not only is this a green-solution, the hefty upfront cost was mitigated by a longer lifespan and cheaper costs after the job was completed. Eventually it paid for itself. We can implement out of the box thinking and make the right fix to not only fix the issue, but address other issues along the way.</p>	
<p>The financial outlook for the District has been impacted by the public health crisis, previous years of strong economic growth, and federal Rescue Plan funds. What do you think the three greatest fiscal challenges for D.C. public education will be over the next four years?</p>	
<p>After the Exodus created largely due to the pandemic, which offered workers the ability to telework, I believe we will see people come back to this great city. Because of this, it should be a priority to invest in mitigating teacher and staff turnover rates in order to help stabilize our neighborhoods. With new families coming back to DC, or current families looking to remain in DC, having a promising school system generates a symbiotic and thus a synergistic relationship between the city and its residents. With this, the schools need to be adequately equipped to handle a surge in students. Lastly, updating old infrastructure is an on-going challenge considering every thing has a timeline to breakage.</p>	

Check on the statement below that best describes your position:	
I think D.C. policies should prioritize the DCPS system of by-right neighborhood schools.	
I think D.C. policies should prioritize parental choice.	x
Explain: I believe in fair competition, I believe our parents have every right to do what they believe is best for their children. At the end of the day, they are responsible for positioning their children in the best possible way that they can to succeed. If that means neighborhood schools need to compete and work harder for business, then everyone comes out a winner.	
ON a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the strongest How strongly do you agree with this statement: The most effective system to ensure equitable quality for students and communities is a system of well-planned and supported DCPS feeder schools of right.	3
On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the strongest, how strongly do you agree with this statement: PK4 students should be able to enroll by-right into their neighborhood DCPS elementary schools.	2
Will you support convening a student assignment and boundary review process to be completed by 2023?	No
Comments, if any: No comment, unless this includes Public Charter Schools	
Should DCPS have budget protections because of its responsibilities as the school system-of-right?	No
Comments: Public Charter Schools are vitally important and should have equal funding.	
The DC Council transferred responsibility for school security in DCPS schools from MPD back to DCPS; DCPS will control its security guard contract this year; and MPD School Resource Officers will be reduced. How should the Council determine whether students are more safe and secure?	
As the at-large candidate who best understands public safety issues, I believe the MPD should not have transferred responsibility in the first place. Part of the rebuilding of our communities stems from the interactions communities have with their local police. I believe the relationship between the MPD and schools should be re-implemented and School Resource Officers should not be reduced.	
Do you support any changes in the way the District of Columbia governs public education?	Yes
What governance reforms would you support for DCPS?	
A DCPS education policy board, appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by Council, with authority to hire and fire the chancellor.	Would consider
An elected DCPS education policy board of education, independent of the Mayor.	Would consider
Other governance reforms that you would consider or support for DCPS: None at this point in time.	

What governance reforms would you support for the State Board of Education and the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE)?	
State Board of Education with authority to hire and fire the State Superintendent of Education.	Would consider
State Board of Education with authority to initiate policy--not just approve it--in areas it already has jurisdiction over.	Would consider
Other ideas you would consider or support for SBOE and/or OSSE: None at this point in time.	
What governance changes would you consider or support for the D.C. Council?	
An Education Committee for the Council of the District of Columbia.	Would consider
Council control over the level of charter enrollment and the number of charter schools.	Would oppose
Other changes you would consider or support D.C. Council governance of public education: None at this point in time.	
What governance reforms would you support for the Public Charter School Board (PCSB)?	
An elected Public Charter School Board.	Would consider
Public Charter School Board appointed by Ward Councilmembers and 3 at-large members appointed by the Mayor.	Would consider
Other reforms you would consider or support for PCSB: None at this point in time.	