

Ward 5 Candidats for DC Council

<p>Faith Gibson Hubbard</p>	
<p>fgh@faithforward5dc.org</p>	
<p>faithforward5dc.org</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p align="center">80</p>
<p>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>	
<p>As a former classroom teacher and educator, we must do more to support the holistic needs of our teachers in the District. COVID-19 has further exacerbated the long-standing issues educators in the District have raised over decades. The State Board of Education has done some very thorough research and investigation into this issue, and there are also national sources of data and reporting to draw from. SBOE's reporting gives us the data we need to move forward into action. While teacher incentives and supports are critical, the issues are much deeper. I believe the Council, in partnership with the State Board of Education and agency partners, should convene a strike force to come up with recommendations and immediate actions to find long term solutions to address the issues of teacher turnover. The data collected and analyzed by SBOE should be foundational to the process, but the strike force must include various stakeholders. I believe following a model similar to the one used for the DCPS Student Assignment and School Boundary Review Process of 2014 would be a great to follow.</p>	
<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>	
<p>A need for comprehensive technology planning and funding is a critical element of supporting student learning but COVID showed us just how important it is for our entire city. For years, advocates like Grace Hu and Digital Equity in DC Education have raised issues, and potential solutions, for solving digital equity and a need for comprehensive technology planning for District students and educators. As a councilmember, I will be a champion for increasing funding for comprehensive technology planning focused on students and within our communities. While we must focus on the aspects of student learning that are connected to schools, we know that access to technology throughout our city is essential. I would fight to ensure our incoming federal infrastructure dollars are focused on bridging the digital divide by strengthening our city's broadband access and make meaningful connections with local dollars and legislation – such as Councilmember Allen's Internet For All bill – in order to have a greater impact.</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>The Council must work to address the issues and concerns over DCPS facilities operations and maintenance by taking the following steps: The Council should also meet with DGS and DCPS at the end of each school year to get an accounting of the process for preparing school facilities for the upcoming school year. This annual meeting should include a checklist of what projects and service requests are needed to open school buildings for the fall and include a measurable timeline to allow for tracking of progress. Conducting more vigorous oversight of the COVID infrastructure dollar. Probing deeper into where the gaps are in the process between DCPS requests and how DGS executes on those requests. This might highlight areas where DGS needs more support for the functions they are responsible for with school facilities maintenance. Require DGS to create a repairs dashboard to provide transparency in the process and provide an opportunity for public accountability for all repairs and service request. This dashboard should also create a portal to capture service requests and needs in real time so that educators can reach out to get the maintenance support they need in a rapid fashion. I will be a champion for prioritizing and increasing funding for small capital projects that work to address issues like HVAC issues, leaky roofs, plumbing, and other facility needs which are issues of safety and quality of life. This step must also include stronger oversight of the process.</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>A desperate need for comprehensive planning (note we MUST work to address the issues of unlimited growth on both sectors); equitable modernizations, loss of economies of scale (for example: at what point can we not afford for every school to have a librarian and nurse because we have too many schools) Teacher Retention Adequacy study: keeping pace with inflation and cost of services At-risk dollars (note: making sure we have sufficient weights to support equitable instruction and support)</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.	x
I think D.C. policies should prioritize parental choice.	
Explain: An equitable system must think about by-right schools and parental choice. It is my hope that one day we will have a system where families will see nothing but great educational options for their children but that can only start if the needs of families and equity are the guiding principles for action.	
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.	2
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?	Yes
Comments, if any: One of the recommendations of the Student Assignment process in 2014 was to revisit the boundaries and assignment patterns on this timeline. I am not sure, given we are already in 2022, this is a reasonable timeline for completion but I do agree the process should be initiated soon.	
Should DCPS have budget protections because of its responsibilities as the school system-of-right?	Yes
Comments: As a system of matter of right schools, DCPS has to have the ability to support whoever shows up, whenever they show up, so appropriate funding is key. We have tried for years to ensure the funding follows the student but that process does not always work. Budget projects have the ability to ensure system funding stabilization, which is critical.	
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?	
<p>Growing up I remember positive experiences of school resources officers in my schools. As an educator I also appreciated the positive presence school resources officers provided within my school building but I also know my personal experiences are not the experiences everyone has with school resource officers inside of school buildings. To ensure the safety and security of students in school I believe the Council MUST work to implement the recommendations of the Police Reform Commission's report. The Commission's report was released a year ago and gave recommendations on how to achieve safety in schools while also keeping our young people from a culture of over-policing. Some of the steps the Commission referenced in the report such as the Officer Friendly program, MPD youth advisory committee, and others are good steps but I do see promise in refocusing our training efforts with school resource officers to reshape the roles they can have in school environments. Additionally, I believe we need to provide safety for students through other methods such as social emotional supports, trauma-informed practice training for staff, increasing the number of school counselors, providing school based mental health supports and staff, and more. If we do not follow the roadmaps, such as the Police Reform Commission's report, to change our methods of training and refocus our efforts to prioritize safety, nothing will change. The Council MUST act on the Police Reform Commission's report, listen to the recommendations of community advocates and stakeholders who raised issues about the school security contract, and appropriately fund the supports schools need to increase student security and safety.</p>	
Do you support any changes in the way the District of Columbia governs public education?	Yes & No
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 oppose
Other ideas you would consider or support for DCPS:	
<p>This question is far more complex than it is laid out here. I agree that an education policy board is an important governance tool to consider adding to our structure. But I do not believe we are at a point in our city governance structure where that should be a fully independent body. I do see a role for that body to advise the mayor and bring forth public recommendations but at this time I cannot agree that the body should play the role of hiring or firing the chancellor.</p>	

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 oppose
State Board of Education with authority to initiate policy--not just approve it--in areas it already has jurisdiction over.	Would support
Other ideas you would consider or support for SBOE and/or OSSE:	
The State Board and OSSE need to continue to work to improve their working relationship. I believe one of the greatest opportunities for the State Board is to have the ability to initiate policy; this will allow them to be more effective in their role. I do believe they can provide feedback and advisement to the Mayor about the Superintendent's performance, but as a part-time board, I do not see how they should have the authority to hire and fire. Before delegating further authority to the State Board, there would have to be significant capacity building to take of additional authority roles. If we continue to progress toward statehood, we might have that opportunity. Furthermore, two of the most important functions of the State Board lie in the two independent offices housed there - the Office of the Student Advocate and Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education. I believe those offices need to be supported through increased funding and staffing support to play an even larger role in supporting the needs of families in our public education system.	
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 support
Council control over the level of charter enrollment and the number of charter schools.	Would oppose
The Council must play a role in public education through vigorous oversight and by building relationships within the sector to stay connected to what is happening on the ground. The Council should be the backstop to make ensure equity and fairness in the process but should not play the primary role of decision-making about public education. Re-establishing the Committee on Education is a critical need. Through that committee, the Council was able to pay close attention to our system of public education, raise questions and issues that needed to be addressed, had more focused opportunities for oversight of education agencies, and crafted legislative actions that worked to improve our system.	
Other changes you would consider or support D.C. Council governance of public education:	
The Council must play a role in public education through vigorous oversight and by building relationships within the sector to stay connected to what is happening on the ground. The Council should be the backstop to make ensure equity and fairness in the process but should not play the primary role of decision-making about public education. Re-establishing the Committee on Education is a critical need. Through that committee, the Council was able to pay close attention to our system of public education, raise questions and issues that needed to be addressed, had more focused opportunities for oversight of education agencies, and crafted legislative actions that worked to improve our system.	
What governance reforms would you support for the Public Charter School Board (PCSB)?	
An elected Public Charter School Board.	Would oppose
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:	
I agree PCSB needs reforms but I am not sure these options get at the need.	