

Ward 3 Candidates for the DC Council

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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.	20
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>As a former school teacher and educator for seven years I know how sad it is to leave the classroom. What led me to leave was the work schedule and the lack of support I was given my last couple years in teaching. Although my passion is still there, as a Councilmember I would listen to other teachers and do more for them that was not given to me. As Ward 3 Councilmember I would push for a workforce housing incentive so teachers can live in the District and not have to commute from Maryland or Virginia. I would also like to explore a flexible scheduling pilot program for teachers as the pandemic taught us that teachers don't actually have to be in the classroom to successfully teach children. I would also explore incentives around parking, as most of the schools in Ward 3 are overcrowded and parking is not relatively available, leading to the PTO and community members to provide visitor parking passes to teachers. The District government has to do a better job around parking for teachers. Lastly, I would incentivize teachers around management training and how to further their careers in education. We need to make the job more enjoyable and strengthen our teachers.</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?	
As the next Ward 3 Councilmember I would work with my colleagues to make sure DCPS is planning and providing technology to all students. I would provide tough oversight, follow the money to make sure it is being spent on technology resources and make sure teachers have the resources they need to support student learning.	
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?	
As Ward 3 Councilmember I would request regular meetings with DCPS and DGS together, to discuss the status and progress of projects and contracts. I am also a strong proponent of bringing back a stand alone education committee and for the committee to conduct regular hearings that are focused on school modernization so that the updates and transparency are on record. I would also follow closely the Planning Actively for Comprehensive Education facilities Amendment Act of 2016 in which the law requires a full-funded cost estimate for projects slated for years 1-3 of the Capital Improvement Plan to make sure there isn't wide variability in budgets from year to year projects.	

<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>The three greatest fiscal challenges facing public education are at-risk funding, funding of special education and English language learner programs, and appropriate capital investments to reduce overcrowding in Ward 3 schools. I am laser-focused on the equitable opportunity for all students in the District of Columbia. We have not reached the point in DC where families can walk into any public school and know that their child is receiving a high-quality education. Although there have been improvements in public education since Mayoral control, the achievement gap between black and low-income families and their white middle-class peers has only increased since the pandemic. I would address these fiscal challenges by committing additional educational resources for at-risk children in low income areas, ensuring they have the proper funding they need to succeed, as well as investing in capital improvements that reflect our greatest needs. As Ward 3 Councilmember I will push for an increase in dedicated funding to support Special Education and English Language Learner students. As Ward 3 Councilmember I will advocate for increased funding for early intervention programs that show long lasting outcomes, including reducing the needs for special education placement and preventing grade retention. I would also increase programs outside of school that increase the social interactions for students with special needs. Lastly, as it pertains to Ward 3, relieving overcrowding in schools by first exploring opportunities inside the ward where space is available. Ward 3 schools are overcrowded because of their long history of success. I will work to dedicate capital funds to provide every student with proper facilities that enhance their learning experience. I applaud our Councilmember for getting the Council and the Mayor to purchase the old GDS property on MacArthur Blvd. NW and for the Mayor wanting to add a new elementary school to Ward 3. Although I don't think Hardy Park is the right location, utilizing existing City-owned property is a great first step to relieve overcrowding. We also need to explore unused office space or vacant buildings in Ward 3 that the city can repurpose into education centers for our public school students.</p>	
<p>Check on the statement below that best describes your position:</p>	
<p>I think D.C. policies should prioritize the DCPS system of by-right neighborhood schools.</p>	x
<p>I think D.C. policies should prioritize parental choice.</p>	
<p>Explain: I think the job of the Councilmember is to provide both an excellent by-right neighborhood school and policies that prioritize parental choice. A family should be able to choose the right school based on their children's wants and abilities and be able to send their children to the best school so their child can succeed.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	1
<p>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.</p>	1

Will you support convening a student assignment and boundary review process to be completed by 2023?	Yes
Comments, if any: As the city continues to evolve and new schools have been added and/or slated to be added we should start convening a student assignment and boundary review process. It has almost been 10 years since we reviewed the process and think we should start discussing the school boundaries process again in 2023.	
Should DCPS have budget protections because of its responsibilities as the school system-of-right?	Yes
Comments: As children move between schools in the middle of the year, DCPS should have budget protection for by-right schools. We also have to acknowledge that some schools might need an increase in funding especially if the children are in special education or ELL.	
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?	
Students should feel safe and secure on the way to school, while in school, and on their way home from school. The Council should determine whether students are more safe and secure by requiring OSSE to provide data on school attendance and behavior incidents while at school. That way the Council has a benchmark of incidents and can determine if the new way is working better or if we should return to the previous model and put MPD school resource officers back in schools.	
Do you support any changes in the way the District of Columbia governs public education?	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 oppose
An elected DCPS education policy board of education, independent of the Mayor.	Would oppose
Other ideas you would consider or support for DCPS:	
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 oppose
Other ideas you would consider or support for SBOE and/or OSSE:	
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
Other changes you would consider or support D.C. Council governance of public education:	

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 oppose
Other reforms you would consider or support for PCSB:	