
FCSB Candidate - VOICES of Fairfax Questionnaire

Dear School Board Candidate -

VOICES of Fairfax is an organized group of concerned citizens who are closely following the School Board races. We have identified you as a candidate running for either an At Large position or as a representative of your district. Our group would like to hear from you on some important questions below. Please respond to these questions no later than August 30th with your complete answers.

We are sending this questionnaire to ALL candidates running for a position on the Fairfax County School Board.

We will post all answers received on our website - www.voicesoffairfax.org - and may follow up on one or more. Once we have received your answers to these questions, we will give you the opportunity to review and sign our Candidate Pledge supporting our community priorities.

Thank you for your time and interest in representing our communities!

Your full name *

Elizabeth L. Schultz
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What is your position on the proposed change to School Board Policy 8130.8 that was presented to the school board on July 22nd, 2019? *

View proposed changes here:

[https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/BDZRXU6E7FD2/\\$file/20190711_Draft_Policy8130_REDLINE.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/BDZRXU6E7FD2/$file/20190711_Draft_Policy8130_REDLINE.pdf)

Opposed
.....

How will One Fairfax affect your decisions as a school board member? *

I am deeply concerned about the trajectory of decision-making under the guise of 'One Fairfax' as purported 'with an equity lens'. There has been no clarity about what One Fairfax intends to accomplish in terms of a strategic goal, other than that 'equity lens' decision framework. It would appear that this approach does not intend to honor community engagement, respect neighborhood schools, ensure parental rights or demonstrate stewardship for our taxpayers. I will continue to highlight concerns about the legality of some the efforts being conducted under the auspices of the 'One Fairfax' resolution and subsequent policy, neither of which I voted for, adopted by both the Board of Supervisors and School Board.

How should racial and/or socioeconomic diversity influence establishing or changing school boundaries? *

They shouldn't.

Is there a way to change the CIP process so that it can be more responsive to increases in school enrollment? *

Definitely. For years, in fact even prior to my service on the Board, I have advocated for transparency in the CIP Student Projection methodology. The CIP does not show the five-year projections which have occurred and how those projections have panned out in the successive years. As a result, we are unable to determine where growth patterns are being underestimated and, then, begin to adapt accordingly.

For example, the Administrative Boundary Policy adopted by the Board prior to the currently constituted one was developed expressly to ensure a more nimble response to student population growth and changes with small boundary adjustments along the way.

The entire goal was to end the backlog of problems accumulating and deliver discrete solutions to assist maximizing building utilization and minimizing overcrowding. In part, this had become necessary due to the continued pattern of in-building the Board of Supervisors has permitted throughout the county without adequate offset in capital infrastructure investment for the academic facilities to meet the increased need created by the influx of new residential construction.

The Administrative Boundary Policy also acted as means to respond to neighborhood turnover; as certain communities aged, the student population fluctuations which inevitably followed caused pockets of high over-capacity and other areas where the dearth of seats has left some schools persistently at 115%, 120% or even higher.

The inexplicable unilateral decision of the current Superintendent to simply stop following an existing policy without a vote by this Board, and the unwillingness of this Board to either hold him accountable or publicly take that vote, has only worsened the situations in school after school around the county.

The underlying or veiled threat of a countywide boundary change approach, or at least huge swaths of the county, under a soon-to-be-adopted new Boundary Policy is precisely the wrong approach to developing discrete solutions for each community facing either an under or over student population issue. Rather, improving the Administrative Boundary Policy by expanding the percentage allowed, creating a hybrid which adopts a small-area approach to specific capacity matters or applying innovative practices such as open enrollment or program placement are responsible and responsive aspects to a much-needed improved strategic approach.

Further, developing a publicly articulated strategy for short-term population growth or changes vis a vis both the implementation and elimination of trailers is paramount. Every trailer or quad/modular placement should be accompanied with a known exit strategy. Unlike the perennial offering of each successive Board to relegate the teaching and learning of entire K-12 student and teacher generations to the temporary trailers, the time has come for a Board that is willing to identify and deliver permanent solutions to permanent problems.

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