



**BOARD TRUSTEE INTERVIEWS  
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Virtual via Webex  
Tuesday, January 12, 2021  
5:30 PM**

**AGENDA**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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- A. Roll Call
  - B. Pledge of Allegiance
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**II. ITEMS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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- A. Approval of the Agenda
  - B. Announcements
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**III. BOARD TRUSTEE INTERVIEWS**

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- A. Steven Goldberg 2
  - B. Janail Silver 8
  - C. Donald Walker 12
  - D. Doron Eisenscher 20
  - E. Kevin Hammer 24
  - F. Kathryn Marvin 29
- 

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**V. DELIBERATION AND APPOINTMENT**

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

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*\*PUBLIC COMMENTS is intended to provide individuals an opportunity to address the Board of Education. Those who wish to do so are asked to complete a Public Comment Card, available at the back of the room. In the interest of fairness, the Board requests each speaker to limit his or her comments up to three (3) minutes.*

*ANY PERSON with a disability who needs accommodation for participation in this meeting should contact the Superintendent's office at 248-489-3338 at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting to request assistance.*

*ALL MEETINGS, with the exception of closed sessions, are open to the public. Regular Board of Education meetings and most premeetings of the Board of Education are cablecast live on TV10.*

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The official minutes of the Board of Education are stored and available for inspection in the Lewis Schulman Administration Building of the Farmington Public School District.

# Trustee Vacancy Application

Deadline to apply is January 3, 2021 by 11:59 pm.

Untitled Section

First Name \*

Steven

Last Name \*

Goldberg

Street Address \*

23051 Fox Crk

City \*

Farmington Hills

Zip Code \*

48335

Phone \*

248-770-3769

Email Address \*

sgoldberg19@yahoo.com

Years of Residence in FPS District

Since 2011.

Do you have children in the District? If so, at what school(s)? \*

Yes; Power (1)

Do you have relatives employed by the District? If so, what position(s) does he/she hold? \*

No

Are you a registered voter in the FPS District? \*

Yes

No

Detail your education and training, including degree(s) and course(s) of study. \*

BA Finance, Michigan State University; MBA, Univ. North Carolina at Greensboro

What has been your involvement with the FPS District? \*

During my son's five years at Hillside I was highly active with the school, including presiding over the Proud Dad's club. In addition, every year I read the story of Hanukkah to his class. I volunteered for many other school activities, as my wife and many of our friends led the Hillside PTA.

I've donated heavily to organizations helping our community, like Farmington Cares and Goodfellows.

For several years I coached my son's sports teams and received the gift of meeting so many other folks in our city.

I served for several years on my home owners association

List any experience(s) or skill(s) you would bring to the Board as an effective member. \*

Combined with my education, my 20+ years as a Director in health insurance clearly differentiates me from all candidates who ran in the recent election. The number one need I see in the district is managing it more like a business in a competitive environment. We spend around \$140 million dollars a year (excluding capital) to deliver education to around 9,500 individuals. Like any other of our size, ours is a complex business that requires a clear vision of what success looks like, significant long-term planning that will get us there, and real collaboration across a diverse stakeholder and customer (read students and their guardians) base all along the way. My experience will be of enormous value in these areas, and I firmly believe our school board needs people like me. Of course, for many years our school board has been tarnished and rendered less than effective by the inability for members to work together and in a professional manner. I bring no "agenda" to the board and believe each board member should bring their unique perspective regarding the opportunities and challenges the district has. However, this is not the zero sum game that many have treated it as. While I may not be unique in this regard compared to other applicants, I assure you that I will not, nor every have engage in the board behaviors of the past, including 2020.

Will your personal and professional schedules allow you to attend 25+ evening Board meetings/workshops per school year in addition to other District activities/events? \*

Yes

No

What, in your opinion, are the two or three most important issues facing the District? How should they be addressed? \*

I will not offer prescriptions as this time; that I think is part of the problem we've experience. People come to the board already with their ideas of HOW to fix things - e.g. here's how kids should be taught. What appear to me to be the three most important issues facing the district are based on my observations during the past year of the board actions as well as an understanding of how our board has operated prior.

1) It's unclear to me what success looks like for FPS. Most candidates have said something along the lines of "put kids first" or "each student should be able to achieve their best self". No agreement whatsoever with these statements. However what does that look like in the real world if we do our job? Will more people move to FPS because of our schools, thus increasing enrollment; will less people take their kids out of FPS and to private school? Will achievement grow compared to the past, and if so for whom and by how much? Will teachers and residents say that FPS is a great school district - why/why not, and how will we know that? When I talk about what success looks like, these are the things that I am talking about.

2) Instability of our Board and Administration is clearly and issue. I can't think of any company or business that could achieve anywhere close to its potential with the instability we have in district leadership. Further, this instability could very well pose a substantial threat to delivering on any promises we're making to our residents for what we will do for our kids.

3) Communication with (not "to") our community, while recently improved, is still highly inadequate. Communication is not simply about telling the community what we are doing, having information posted to our website, or responding timely to emails from the community. I firmly believe that we need a much improved two-way dialogue with our community.

To sum up, if we tend to these three areas, I believe we can restore community trust in our school district and achieve a much brighter future. In no way should any of my comments be construed as criticism of specific individuals and their commitment to their jobs and what they believe in. Rather, the point is that the district will only go so far as its leadership enables it.

Is there one particular area/issue facing the District that you are passionate about working on if you are elected to serve? If so, what and why? \*

Strategic, long-term planning. Everything starts with and flows from this, and its an area that I am highly experienced.

What, in your opinion, is the Board's role in creating high performing schools in a changing and challenging environment? \*

I offer the following, none of which is specific to schools, nor should they be. Further, I know of no business that doesn't operate in a changing or challenging environment. What is critical, regardless of the business one's is, is having the information needed to make decisions. During times of crisis, such as we were thrust into in early 2020, the speed of making decisions is typically much faster than normal, thus highlighting even more the need for timely, good information

1) The role of the board is to plan and strategize goals and objectives for the short- and long-term good of the company and to put mechanisms in place to monitor progress against the objectives. To this regard, board directors must review, understand and discuss the company's goals

2) More specifically,

- Recruit, supervise, retain, evaluate and compensate the manager
- Provide direction for the organization
- Establish a policy based governance system
- Govern the organization and the relationship with the CEO (read superintendent)
- Fiduciary duty to protect the organization's assets and member's investment

What are your thoughts regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Board and superintendent? \*

See immediately previous answer

Why do you want to serve on the FPS Board of Education? \*

Quite simply, I bring unique skills developed and honed through my employment that I firmly believe are of great value to the board and FPS. For many years I have volunteered to help out kids, especially during the five years while my son was at Hillside (now sixth grade at Power). I have the passion to help in this area. If I felt FPS was running great and didn't need someone like me, I would never have bothered to run this past election, in which, as you surely know, I garnered the highest number of votes by far any candidate not elected. I could not care less about personal attention that a role on FPS would bring as I only seek to help FPS be great, nothing else, because I care deeply about our kids and community.

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This form was created inside of Shared Email System.

Google Forms

# Trustee Vacancy Application

Deadline to apply is January 3, 2021 by 11:59 pm.

Untitled Section

First Name \*

Janail

Last Name \*

Silver

Street Address \*

25247 Branchaster Road

City \*

Farmington Hills

Zip Code \*

48336

Phone \*

2488940477

Email Address \*

janailsilver@gmail.com

Years of Residence in FPS District

4

Do you have children in the District? If so, at what school(s)? \*

Beechview Elementary, East Middle School, and Farmington High School

Do you have relatives employed by the District? If so, what position(s) does he/she hold? \*

no

Are you a registered voter in the FPS District? \*

Yes

No

Detail your education and training, including degree(s) and course(s) of study. \*

MA - Clinical Mental Health Counseling; MBA; BS - Management

What has been your involvement with the FPS District? \*

volunteer, athletics supporter

List any experience(s) or skill(s) you would bring to the Board as an effective member. \*

The skills and experiences I would bring as an effective board member are: excellent communication, leadership, supervisory, training and development, understanding of system selection and implementation, counseling, conflict resolution, volunteer coordinator, girl scout troop leader, more than 20 years of experience working in higher education, a concerned parent, and athletic supporter.

Will your personal and professional schedules allow you to attend 25+ evening Board meetings/workshops per school year in addition to other District activities/events? \*

Yes

No

What, in your opinion, are the two or three most important issues facing the District? How should they be addressed? \*

With the immediate close of school due to pandemic, the lack of efficient technology to host virtual school emerged as an important issue. FPS acted swiftly and is working out the kinks, but I personally feel that more comprehensive training for faculty and staff needs to occur. I also believe that FPS should work to improving and updating it facilities, as many are too small for the school population and pose a safety risk to the community. The third item of concern is the equitable resources for our special needs populations. Some of the testing and evaluative measures are biased and skewed towards non-minority norms.

Is there one particular area/issue facing the District that you are passionate about working on if you are elected to serve? If so, what and why? \*

I can't say that I have one particular area that I am most passionate about. I feel all of the areas/issues mentioned are important. The faculty, staff, students and their families are all important to the health and sustainability of the district. As a board member it would be my responsibility, along with the other members of the board, to help make sound decisions for the district and its constituents.

What, in your opinion, is the Board's role in creating high performing schools in a changing and challenging environment? \*

In my opinion it is the Board's responsibility to ensure we are hiring the best talent, ensuring our FPS workers have fair contracts that provide competitive compensation and benefits. Teachers and administrators earning competitive wages are more likely to persist and put more effort into their jobs as because their basic needs are being met. It is also the board's role to review the state assessment standards and make note of areas for improvement while also acknowledging areas where the district excels. The board makes important decisions regarding spending and fiscal responsibility. Lastly I feel it is important that the board embodies diversity and represents all of the diverse populations within the district.

What are your thoughts regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Board and superintendent? \*

I believe the board's role is to make researched, data driven recommendations to the superintendent as well as serve as the liaison, the voice of the community.

Why do you want to serve on the FPS Board of Education? \*

I would like to serve on the FPS Board of Education to help with setting the vision and goals for the district. I feel my background, my commitment to education and children, my willingness to collaborate, and compassion for teachers and administration will aid in working to achieve a safe, high achieving, student focused district.

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Google Forms

# Trustee Vacancy Application

Deadline to apply is January 3, 2021 by 11:59 pm.

Untitled Section

First Name \*

Donald

Last Name \*

Walker

Street Address \*

37267 Aspen Dr

City \*

Farmington Hills

Zip Code \*

48335

Phone \*

3134673561

Email Address \*

donjphd@gmail.com

Years of Residence in FPS District

20

Do you have children in the District? If so, at what school(s)? \*

1 Power Middle (Two others who graduated from FPS)

Do you have relatives employed by the District? If so, what position(s) does he/she hold? \*

no

Are you a registered voter in the FPS District? \*

Yes

No

Detail your education and training, including degree(s) and course(s) of study. \*

SPECS HOWARD SCHOOL OF MEDIA ARTS Farmington Hills/Southfield, MI

Digital Media Arts Certificate 02/2014 - 02/2015

Broadcast Certificate 11/1987 - 07/1988

Skilled in editing, videography, graphic design, web design, motion graphics, and content production

UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX Southfield, MI

Master of Business Administration 02/2003 - 02/2005

Significant courses include Strategic Business Communication, Marketing, Operational Management

Graduated Cum Laude

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT-MERCY DETROIT, MI

Bachelor of Arts Communications Studies 09/1990 - 05/2000

Graduated Cum Laude

What has been your involvement with the FPS District? \*

Most recently I was a 2020 candidate for the Farmington Board of Education seat (2-year term). I am a Farmington African American Parent Network Parent Liaison for Power Middle School. I also sit as an advisory board member for two programs: North Farmington TV-10 and Web-IT Career & Technical Education programs. When my son was a member of the Farmington High School marching band he performed in the pit. I was a "Pit Dad" and helped to set up and tear down the equipment at performances.

List any experience(s) or skill(s) you would bring to the Board as an effective member. \*

I have 30 years of experience in K-12 education communications and post-secondary education, digital media production, and career and technical education. As the Director of Education for Specs Howard School of Media Arts, I was instructional in curriculum development and supervised a team of instructors. I was the content producer (videographer, editor) for the Communications Department for Detroit Public Schools Community District. During this time, I developed messaging during the entire emergency manager oversight. I continue to provide content support for several central office departments.

I am currently the Director of Multimedia for Detroit School of Arts. I oversee the multimillion-dollar restoration of the school's video and audio production areas. I support the digital media curriculum taught in the school by providing resources, certifications, internships, and professional development opportunities through the creation of industry relationships. I have established and facilitate the program advisory board made up of industry partners from the digital media and broadcast professions.

I have experience in communicating and marketing to a community during difficult and transformative times. I have a high level of insight into creating a successful graduate who is prepared either for a college or career pathway.

Will your personal and professional schedules allow you to attend 25+ evening Board meetings/workshops per school year in addition to other District activities/events? \*

Yes

No

What, in your opinion, are the two or three most important issues facing the District? How should they be addressed? \*

#### Covid-19 Response

There are two over-arching priorities: virtual or in-person teaching which is linked to the safety of the students and staff. We must follow the data to keep students safe. We have to recognize some students MUST have face to face instruction and care (i.e. special needs and students with very specific individualized education plans). We cannot operate with a broad brush. We must work to maximize the number of students who can be successful in a safe virtual learning environment. Maximizing the number of at-home children will help support the safety of children who must have in-person instruction by being in a building with fewer students. The fewer the students, the safer the building can be. In either platform, working to make teacher-student connections meaningful without burning students out on their screen time is important. A combination of asynchronous and synchronous learning is very helpful. Our current hybrid solution begins to address this.

For students and staff who are on-site, the priority is the cleanliness of the buildings. Our custodial staff must be outfitted with all the protective gear and tools needed to keep the buildings properly sanitized.

#### Raising our academic level of achievement

In our Covid-19 environment this is incredibly challenging. We must remain focused on providing the best instruction we can under the circumstances while looking toward the day when things have returned to face-to-face instruction. We need to look at our curriculum and have assessments created to determine if the programs we have in place are working for all students. While we are a district that works to lift and support those who are struggling, we also must keep challenging those who are excelling. I believe in increasing the number of College Prep and International Baccalaureate (IB) graduates. There are academic and financial benefits our parents and students need to know about. These programs, because of their rigor, better positions students to achieve academic scholarships or earn college credit. Either of these options will ease the burden of college costs. Additionally, we need to continue to support and promote our Career and Technical Education (CTE) participation especially considering our having an International Baccalaureate CTE program. Not every student is ready for or wants to go to college after high school. We must accept that reality not as a failing but as a choice. CTE provides the skills needed for students to pursue certain careers sooner. Students can leave high school for a career immediately after graduation or attend a trade school or community college. Both options also ease the burden of post-secondary costs. With FPS having a CTE program with IB rigor, students are getting the best of both worlds which provides another choice in addition to college prep, IB and standard CTE. Providing our graduates with options is a hallmark of a strong and effective district.

#### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

I believe equity is the driving force for diversity and inclusion. Equity is a human concept though people tend to link it solely to race. Equity is about providing everyone with what they need to be successful. Equity strives to help those who need it and pushes those who want it. When supported, equity is a concept that brings people together and makes everyone better.

I will support Farmington's new leadership in this work. I am willing to be a role model of learning and participation for other board members, district, staff, and community partners. I will bring all the resources I can to support the leadership's plan. I strongly support accountability measures for FPS employees and

students in order to create a safe, encouraging, and inclusive environment for students and teachers. Growth in DEI begins with myself and other board members being educated and trained in these areas. We cannot continue to be plagued by the issues and incidents of the past. If we want to have graduates as transformative leaders, we must be transformative and inclusive as a district.

Is there one particular area/issue facing the District that you are passionate about working on if you are elected to serve? If so, what and why? \*

Transparent and full communication to our community. I believe a large part of the challenges we face stem from the manner and time the leadership communicates with the community. I believe there is a lot of work that can be done here, and my professional experiences in communication will serve the efforts of the board and district well. As a board, we need to listen to understand and then communicate based on that understanding.

What, in your opinion, is the Board's role in creating high performing schools in a changing and challenging environment? \*

The board sets the expectations for the culture and then models the behavior and attitudes we want in our leadership, staff, and students. The board's role begins with providing a clear and transparent framework for the entire school community. FutureReady.org provides a framework that aligns with my personal beliefs of where the board's leadership should be focused. Personalized instruction, job-embedded learning, an infrastructure that supports scalable and flexible instructional delivery, and community partnerships are a few of the areas listed in the FutureReady framework. This future-driven perspective is focused on student-centered learning and achievement. Our role is to be thought leaders in these areas working side-by-side with our superintendent. This is why the hiring of a solid leader who shares the board's vision is vital to the creation of a high performing school environment.

What are your thoughts regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Board and superintendent? \*

As mentioned in the previous question, the board sets the expectations for the culture and then models the behaviors. The board sets the vision and then as thought leaders have conversations and visits with other districts who are where we want to be. The board should be engaging current and future stakeholders to help chart the district's future. Proper governance, fiscal responsibility, compassionate and fair leadership is the role of the school board.

The superintendent is accountable directly to the board. He/she must work in partnership by taking the board's collective vision and executing it with fidelity. The board does not micro-managed the day-today work, that is the superintendent's job. However, for the superintendent to be effective he/she must work well with people. The superintendent must know how to build relationships both inside and outside of the district. The duties of the superintendent are endless. Therefore he/she must hire quality administrators and help them become the best in their areas of supervision. As a board liaison and only employee of the board, the superintendent must communicate honestly and thoroughly with the board. This must be done in the spirit of trust and encouragement. The good and the bad must be shared amongst this group of leaders with the main purpose of developing solutions and polices that promote a safe, nurturing and empowering learning environment for students and employees.

As leaders, both the board and the superintendent must understand they are in leadership over an environment that features learning/education as its main product. There will be obstacles, setbacks and achievements. These moments must be approached with the perspective of protecting those who are vulnerable and promoting the best within all who serve the district.

Why do you want to serve on the FPS Board of Education? \*

My entire campaign platform has been in support of helping Farmington Public Schools provide the best educational experience for its students. I continue to support increasing participation in college prep and career pathway programming. I support a board who communicates openly and transparently with its parents and students. I support the concepts of diversity, equity, and inclusion because when everybody is allowed and encouraged to be their best selves, everyone wins. These are transformational platforms that will place Farmington Public Schools in the spotlight it deserves.

To do so, we must remain student-centered. We must close educational and opportunity gaps. We must continue the work of creating a safe, encouraging, and nurturing environment for students and staff alike. Education is about helping people become the best versions of themselves. With my personal and professional skills and experience, collectively we can achieve the vision and mission of Farmington Public Schools.



# Trustee Vacancy Application

Deadline to apply is January 3, 2021 by 11:59 pm.

## Untitled Section

First Name \*

Doron

Last Name \*

Eisensch

Street Address \*

30059 Fernhill Dr

City \*

Farmington Hills

Zip Code \*

48334

Phone \*

2483265469

Email Address \*

deisenscher@gmail.com

Years of Residence in FPS District

13+

Do you have children in the District? If so, at what school(s)? \*

Yes, 8th grader and 3rd grader at STEAM

Do you have relatives employed by the District? If so, what position(s) does he/she hold? \*

NO

Are you a registered voter in the FPS District? \*

Yes

No

Detail your education and training, including degree(s) and course(s) of study. \*

BBA in Business from Adrian College

What has been your involvement with the FPS District? \*

As a parent I am involved with my children's school, going to and helping with events. We volunteer and help our teachers and staff in any way we can, including gathering donations.

List any experience(s) or skill(s) you would bring to the Board as an effective member. \*

Listening, and the deep love and concern for this district, community and public education. I believe in the diversity of thought to make the best decision for our community. My background helps me understand all sides openly.

Will your personal and professional schedules allow you to attend 25+ evening Board meetings/workshops per school year in addition to other District activities/events? \*

Yes

No

What, in your opinion, are the two or three most important issues facing the District? How should they be addressed? \*

The most important issues in the district are fair and equitable delivery of education to all students and families. We need to think about the students, the parents and the FPS staff in all decisions. These issues need to be addressed by having a cohesive board who works in conjunction with a superintendent and the community to deliver the high quality education our students deserve.

Is there one particular area/issue facing the District that you are passionate about working on if you are elected to serve? If so, what and why? \*

The one issue I am most passionate about is bringing the students, staff, parents and community together to provide the education our children deserve. There is too much division between all the stakeholders and we need to all work on one goal.

What, in your opinion, is the Board's role in creating high performing schools in a changing and challenging environment? \*

The Board's role is to take information in from all parties, evaluate and make decisions in tandem with all parties. We need to listen to our community and stakeholders, understand the needs of our students and continue the high standards that make this community so great to be part of.

What are your thoughts regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Board and superintendent? \*

The Board is a sounding board and needs to be the checks and balances between the district vision and what we hear from the community. The Board is there to help guide the district while also working with the community when changes occur.

Why do you want to serve on the FPS Board of Education? \*

As an immigrant to this country, who has 2 children in the district and 2 African American students (my wife and I were legal guardians) who attended Warner and North Farmington, I understand the past and current status of the district. We love the community and the power of leadership and delivering high quality public education to a diverse group of students. If we can get the Board to work as one and remember the most important goal, to provide high quality public education and work with the students, parents and staff we can continue to be a model for other communities.

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# Trustee Vacancy Application

Deadline to apply is January 3, 2021 by 11:59 pm.

## Untitled Section

First Name \*

Kevin

Last Name \*

Hammer

Street Address \*

26543 Trillium Dr

City \*

Farmington Hills

Zip Code \*

48331

Phone \*

2483212521

Email Address \*

Kevin@hammerhome.net

Years of Residence in FPS District

33

Do you have children in the District? If so, at what school(s)? \*

No

Do you have relatives employed by the District? If so, what position(s) does he/she hold? \*

No

Are you a registered voter in the FPS District? \*

Yes

No

Detail your education and training, including degree(s) and course(s) of study. \*

Bachelor of Science, Accounting/Juris Doctor

What has been your involvement with the FPS District? \*

Candidate for School Board in November, 2020 general election.

List any experience(s) or skill(s) you would bring to the Board as an effective member. \*

Technical skills that I would bring to the board are from my background as a CPA and attorney. Also, I have been involved in many civic, church and school activities and organizations. In many, if not most cases, I have been asked to take on leadership positions in these roles-e.g., Parent clubs, booster clubs, school board, Xemplar Club of Farmington and Farmington Hills, City Commission, Farmington Memorial Day Parade Committee. I like to think that this is because I've exhibited competency, along with a collaborative and personable working and leadership style. I think this is the most significant attribute that I can bring to the school board. I have also coached many elementary and high school sports teams, and served as an athletic director. Many of these roles require an understanding of children's needs, but also an ability to work with a wider group of parents and administrators, to meet those children's needs.

Will your personal and professional schedules allow you to attend 25+ evening Board meetings/workshops per school year in addition to other District activities/events? \*

Yes

No

What, in your opinion, are the two or three most important issues facing the District? How should they be addressed? \*

The most important issue facing our District is for the School Board to provide a clear vision, and the means, for the Superintendent to improve student achievement. There have been many distractions in the School Board's actions, so it has to redefine and refocus its role. After that, the Board should focus on being involved in the community as a support for our District, being engaged with our community for feedback, and providing a consequential budget review and approval process.

Is there one particular area/issue facing the District that you are passionate about working on if you are elected to serve? If so, what and why? \*

I believe that realigning the Board's actions to its proper role is the most immediate need, so of course I would be focused on that. And being a CPA, I consider budgets as values statements for any organization. So I would be passionate about the budgeting process, particularly in a way to allocate more resources to the classrooms. Finally, though, I would say community and parental engagement could possibly go a long way toward improving student achievement and closing achievement gaps. I would be enthused about engaging parents and the entire community in the importance of educating each one of our children in an equitable and excellent manner. I believe our community would be enthused also.

What, in your opinion, is the Board's role in creating high performing schools in a changing and challenging environment? \*

Recruiting and retaining a Superintendent with appropriate qualifications who will be versed in the methods to meet changes and challenges in achieving and maintaining high student achievement. And of course, an effective board's experiences and involvement in the community will be beneficial in providing input and feedback in this regard. Sound fiscal management, under the board's oversight, will give the District the best possible opportunity to meet new challenges.

What are your thoughts regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Board and superintendent? \*

A School Board is charged with hiring and retaining a qualified Superintendent. After that, it should provide the vision, strategic plan, and the means and support for him or her to improve student achievement, and making all students college-ready, or career ready through its CTE programs. In addition to providing the vision and strategic plan, the board can be most effective in the efficient allocation of resources through the budgeting process. Finally, engagement with the community in both a supportive manner, and as a means of providing feedback for the District.

Why do you want to serve on the FPS Board of Education? \*

Education is the most consequential role of state and local government, and its communities. I believe that I have the proper perspective, technical competencies and collaborative skills to work with our Superintendent and other board members in improving student achievement.

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# Trustee Vacancy Application

Deadline to apply is January 3, 2021 by 11:59 pm.

## Untitled Section

First Name \*

Kathryn

Last Name \*

Marvin

Street Address \*

35585 Fredericksburg Road

City \*

Farmington Hills

Zip Code \*

48331

Phone \*

248-310-5139

Email Address \*

kmarvin1@twmi.rr.com

Years of Residence in FPS District

28 years

Do you have children in the District? If so, at what school(s)? \*

No

Do you have relatives employed by the District? If so, what position(s) does he/she hold? \*

No

Are you a registered voter in the FPS District? \*

Yes

No

Detail your education and training, including degree(s) and course(s) of study. \*

I have a B.A. degree from Lycoming College in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and a Masters in Education from Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania.

What has been your involvement with the FPS District? \*

I am the parent of 2 children who previously attended Farmington Public Schools. During their time in the school system I was an active member of the PTA and participated in countless classroom activities.

List any experience(s) or skill(s) you would bring to the Board as an effective member. \*

My skills and experiences come from the perspective of both a parent and former teacher. I understand the mechanics of what it takes to educate a child. As a Board member I look forward to contributing to our community of children on another level.

Will your personal and professional schedules allow you to attend 25+ evening Board meetings/workshops per school year in addition to other District activities/events? \*

Yes

No

What, in your opinion, are the two or three most important issues facing the District? How should they be addressed? \*

My opinion is not necessarily important but rather the opinions and concerns of parents, teachers, and students within our district. In listening to my neighbors whose children and grandchildren attend FPS their concerns focus on improving remote learning, a plan for implementing a return to the classroom, an accurate assessment of how academically students advanced this past school year, and most importantly leadership from the Board and Superintendent. These issues must be addressed by first and foremost hiring a Superintendent that possesses a quiet confidence to listen, plan, and then implement solutions that meet the needs of our students. The next Superintendent must then be able to communicate to the FPS community how problems are to be solved.

Is there one particular area/issue facing the District that you are passionate about working on if you are elected to serve? If so, what and why? \*

COVID-19 aside and dealing with the issues that this disease has thrust upon how we educate our students I have definite ideas and a strong interest in teacher mentoring combined with an honest assessment of curriculum development. I have vivid memories of my first teaching assignment right out of college as a District of Columbia public school teacher. Quite frankly, student teaching did not prepare me to manage a combination classroom of nearly 30 second and third graders with out someone to offer a lifeline now and again. As my teaching career progressed working in a district outside of Philadelphia I participated in a mentoring program working with first and second year teachers to guide them through the intricacies of classroom management and communication with parents. In the area of curriculum development, as a fifth grade teacher our social studies curriculum was written directly from the history textbook. Christopher Columbus to post Vietnam. Really?!! A teacher would be lucky to make it to Reconstruction. Throughout my teaching career I took a personal interest in this issue by serving on curriculum committees to create sensible academic objectives to be accomplished during a school year. As a teacher I especially loved when our math curriculum was written as a chart with the skills (such as 2 digit multiplication or fractions), and then I's, R's and M's. I was for introduced, R was for reinforced, and then M was for Mastery. As a teacher I knew the if the skills of long division or perimeter were at M then that meant my students would be coming across these skills on a standardized test and they had better be proficient in this area.

What, in your opinion, is the Board's role in creating high performing schools in a changing and challenging environment? \*

First, clearly define "high performance school". High performance schools have high performing students. Students that perform at a higher level do so because they have access to many and varied opportunities and experiences. The Board controls the money, The Board must without question spend the money to educate all students to their fullest potential. The Board must balance its priorities just as a parent must decide between ballet, ice skating, hockey, lacrosse, and saving for college. Spend the money so it will do the most good.

What are your thoughts regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Board and superintendent? \*

The Board is elected by the taxpayers. The Board hires the Superintendent. The Superintendent should move seamlessly between the community, teachers, students, and the Board of Education. This should not be a daunting task if there is mutual respect and tunnel vision focus on what is best for children.

Why do you want to serve on the FPS Board of Education? \*

I do not have an ax to grind. I am not personally angry or unhappy. When this position became available I was moved to place my application for consideration. I have far too much to offer not to use my experience and expertise for a positive contribution to Farmington Public Schools.

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