

2022 Montgomery County Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire

Our Revolution Maryland recognizes the importance of the Montgomery County Board of Education in shaping educational policy in the state's largest county. We are seeking to endorse Progressive Champions who will help improve the public education available to all Montgomery County students.

Please provide as much information as possible. If you have any questions, please email hal@ourrevolutionmd.com. Thank you!

Email *

yang4education@gmail.com

Name of person completing this form. *

Julie Yang

Title of office sought including district *

Board of Education District 3

Candidate status in race

Challenger to Democratic Incumbent ▼

Website

www.julieyang.org

Email

yang4education@gmail.com

Phone

12408384051

Candidate Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/julieyang4boe>

Candidate Twitter

<https://twitter.com/JulieYangMoCo>

Candidate Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/julieyang4boe/>

Candidate's Progressive Values

Campaign issues and pledges

Why are you running for the Board of Education? If elected, what will be your priorities?

I want every student to have a chance to succeed in the future, no matter their path or background. As a Board of Education member, I want to carry out this vision by 1) empowering all students, parents and staff; 2) restoring trust between the MCPS community and the public school system; and 3) lead efforts that ensure all students are college or career ready. My community driven plan for the Board of Education includes: Increase mental health support by phasing in more counselors and psychologists to serve students. Make mental health a standing agenda item at the Board. Expand opportunities by connecting and exposing our students to various career pathways. Prepare students for 21st-century jobs by expanding Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math (STEAM) and career and technology programs in schools. Provide universal, early-childhood education to ensure our children are ready to learn in school. My campaign is endorsed by 23 city, County and state elected officials. Among them are Our Revolution Montgomery County endorsed candidates: Delegate Emily Shetty (D-18), Delegate Vaughn Stewart (D-19), and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins (D-20).

Is there a particular issue that motivates you to serve on the board of education? (Please identify and explain)

The single most pressing issue facing our community is student mental health. As an educator who has worked inside and outside of the classroom, I know first hand that mental health is critical to students' success and future. I am a parent of an MCPS graduate who went through a mental health crisis and as a former MCPS high school college & career counselor, I have supported hundreds of students as a trusted adult to navigate the complex issues they experience. These experiences have motivated me to prioritize the mental health of students as part of my plan to ensure that every child has a chance to succeed in our school system. Please read my op-ed that expands on my proposals to improve mental health support and resources for MCPS students.

What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?

I will bring to the Board of Education nearly 20 years of experience as an educator serving students first as a classroom teacher, then as a career and college counselor and a community leader for MCPS students of underrepresented groups. As a proud mother of two MCPS graduates, I have also led educational efforts outside of the system as a PTA Leader and an advocate for underrepresented populations. Building bridges and addressing gaps for special education and minority students have been a key aspect of my community work. Because of my immigrant background and experiences learning English as a second language, I am equipped to connect with students and families who experience linguistic, cultural and economic challenges in Montgomery County. I am also serving our special needs communities and previously founded the Village Initiative, a non-profit that supports special education students. Currently, I am a Board Member of The Arc Montgomery County to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities achieve a higher quality of life and sense of belonging within their community. From my extensive background of working across elementary, middle and high schools within MCPS, I understand the nuances of navigating the complex school system. I will bring to the Board my established relationships with the MCPS community, Montgomery County's government, non-profit entities, advocates and community members, which are key to improving the operations of our school system, developing school policies, enhancing our school district's budget to better meet the needs of everyone involved in educating our students.

Please describe your background in education? Have you taught in schools?

I am a seasoned educator with two decades of experience. Education is both my passion and my profession. I am an immigrant who grew up in poverty, and I know first hand that education is the greatest equalizer, a bridge for success for the underprivileged. My background is one of the main reasons why I have dedicated my entire professional life to education, to be that bridge for students from all walks of life. My journey with MCPS started as a parent volunteer. I first served at various schools first as a classroom volunteer for kindergartners and 1st graders. As my children progressed throughout their elementary and secondary education at MCPS, I served as a room parent, a PTA committee chair and also a Montgomery County Councils of PTAs (MCCPTA) Churchill cluster representative. I was a classroom teacher for seven years before working for MCPS as an employee. In the past 11 years within MCPS, I had worked in three high school clusters: Walter Johnson, B-CC, and Magruder - all of which had schools with very different needs. I was the college and career advisor at a school till last December with 40% low income, 40% first-gen college attending students and it is a minority-majority school. I broke the status quo and pushed to have the Career Center renovated, ramped up the programming for Seniors, created new programs that target Juniors, and offered career exploration opportunities. All these efforts have increased our college attending rate by 10%. I am always looking at how to remove barriers and increase equitable access for our students. Take dual enrollment at Montgomery College as an example, as our students do not have transportation means, I have worked closely with MC to bring dual enrollment classes onsite to my school. I believe my work has resulted in better career and life preparedness for all students. English is my 2nd language. I have gone through many cultural, linguistic, and economic struggles our immigrant families experience daily. If we are concerned with the performance of our English language learners, I believe that I have much to contribute to this area. One of my projects that I successfully championed was bringing ESOL funding to Churchill High School. I want to be part of the solution to this work. I will add to the diversity of the Board and strengthen our connection with the community. I have been an active volunteer with Girl Scout, 4 H. I have experience building and growing a non-profit, and starting and growing an advisory council. I have experience building collaborations with various departments of MCPS and connecting various MCPS services with community groups. I have successfully organized community groups to support MCPS initiatives. I am a doer. When I see a need, I work on it. For example, in the last few years, I have organized large scale well attended community events to help with workforce recruitment. Because of my unique understanding of living and serving in multiple MCPS communities that have very different resources and needs, I will bring my tremendous knowledge and awareness of the challenges students in these different communities are facing throughout the county to the Board. Because I have been working as a staff member of MCPS, I understand the many challenges and needs subject teachers, ESOL teachers, Special Ed teachers, counselors and others are facing. Because I have been trained as an educator and believe in the development of the whole child and the empowerment of our educators to do their work to advance education, all policies and priorities that I make will be student centered and best educational practices informed. I have a proven record of 16 years as a volunteer and an employee with MCPS. I have been the boots on the ground living the daily life with students and staff in our buildings. I am dedicated and involved long-term. I have proven that I am hands-on, take initiative, and do not maintain the status quo. I am skilled at collaboration. I am someone that brings positive energy to those around me. Most importantly, I am not influenced by outside interest or distractions and will dedicate full time to the work of the Board of Education. I will serve the MCPS community well as a Board Member.

Do you have children who are or were between the ages of 5 and 18? If yes, did they attend MoCo Public schools? If not, please explain why not.

Yes, I am the proud parent of two MCPS graduates. My daughter attended Farmland Elementary, Eastern Middle School and Winston Churchill High School, Class of 2019. My son attended Farmland Elementary, Herbert Hoover Middle School and is a recent graduate of Churchill High School, Class of 2022.

Please set forth your position on Charter Schools. (We recognize it may be nuanced. Include in your answer whether you are receiving any support from any such school or individual or group associated with the Charter School Movement in any way.)

I am a believer in how public education shapes the future of students. Charter schools should only be considered and only needed when the system has identified a service that is lacking in our schools. I am not receiving any support from individuals or groups associated with the Charter School Movement in any way.

How do you propose to attract and retain qualified teachers and to ensure that all students are receiving a high quality education?

The pandemic has surely taught us that business as usual cannot meet the needs of our public school community. Therefore, it will take both short-term and long-term creative efforts to attract and maintain the most qualified workforce in the school system.

My proposed short-term solutions include critically evaluating and enhancing two areas: 1) whether mental health supports and resources truly meet the needs and address the challenges MCPS staff face and 2) capture narratives, suggestions and comments of staff who voluntarily leave the school system to improve the MCPS employee experience.

For long-term solutions, I turn to traditionally untapped resources, which include:

Expand our grow your own program. Partner with Montgomery College and University at Shady Grove to form a teacher certification program. Provide tuition assistance to our high schoolers and in return, have a service obligation.

Adopting a job sharing model throughout the school districts so staff can split their shifts. For example in North Carolina, teachers split the day into morning or afternoon shifts in the elementary level. This model will also open opportunities for social workers, psychologists and therapists seeking part-time work
Simplifying the job application process so we can target job changers from the science, technology and arts fields looking into the teaching professions

Building and expanding relationships with community partners the school district have not tapped into before to attract a diverse workforce.

Does the candidate endorse the Our Revolution Platform?

<https://ourrev.us/Platform2022>

Choose ▼

If the candidate has questions or concerns about any items in the OR Platform, please note here:

This is to clarify for one of the earlier questions: Board of Education seats are non partisan. I am challenging an incumbent. I am not sure of his party affiliation.

Is candidate a recurring Our Revolution donor at \$5/month or more?

- Yes
- No (You can contribute at <https://ourrev.us/2022member>)
- Pledged at <https://ourrev.us/2022member>
- Other:

Candidate's narrative

Candidate's political history

What offices have they run for or held before? How did they fare in those elections? What have they accomplished in office?

I am a first time candidate. I recently received over 60 percent of the vote in the 2022 Primary Elections.

Candidate's personal story

Aside from political offices they've held, what is noteworthy about the candidate's life story? ie. personal experiences, jobs, education, etc

I am a seasoned educator with two decades of experience. Education is both my passion and my profession. I am a first-generation immigrant. Growing up in extreme poverty, many girls around me stopped attending school after elementary due to the lack of resources. I was one of the lucky ones that went to college and received my degree in master of education. Because of my experiences, I understand that education is the greatest equalizer, a bridge for success for the underprivileged. And I have dedicated my entire professional life to education, to be that bridge for students.

English is my 2nd language. I have gone through many cultural, linguistic, and economic struggles our immigrant families experience daily. If we are concerned with the performance of our English language learners, I believe that I have much to contribute to this area. I want to be part of the solution to this work.

Before joining MCPS, I taught as an elementary school teacher. My local leadership community efforts include serving as:

- Board Member, The Arc Montgomery County (present)
- Founder, Village Initiative - a non-profit that serves special education students (5 years)
- Founder and leader, Potomac 4H Community Service Club (6 years)
- Cluster coordinator, MCCPTA (2 years)
- Co-chair, MCPS Asian Pacific American Student Achievement Action Group (3 years)
- Reflections Art Committee Chair, Eastern Middle School PTSA (3 years)
- Geography Bowl Committee Chair, Farmland Elementary School PTSA (3 years)
- Troop 4848 Leader, Girl Scout Council of Nation's Capital, Maryland (7 years)
- Leader, 4H Potomac Community Club, Maryland (5 years)

Possible negatives

Use this space to tell us anything you think might be used against the candidate during this campaign

Other endorsements

What noteworthy endorsements has this candidate has received (if they are not already listed on candidate website)

I am endorsed by 23 city, countywide and state elected officials and several organizations. Please check out my website for the full list. I have also been recognized as a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense Candidate and endorsed by the Maryland Asian American and Pacific Islander Democrats.

Candidate's campaign infrastructure

Candidate Campaign Manager name, phone, email

.....

Candidate Finance Manager name, phone, email

.....

Fundraising analysis

How much has the candidate raised? How many donors and what is the average donation? How does this candidate's fundraising compare to their opponents?

I have received grassroots support from over 400 donors. To date, I have raised \$50,000 from contributions.

.....

Campaign team/volunteer assessment

How many people are working for the candidate? Does the campaign have enough volunteers?

I currently have 20 individuals volunteering on my kitchen cabinet and carrying out our grassroots campaign work. I also have interns to support our voter outreach efforts. Over 100 community members have volunteered for the campaign. My campaign team is made up of community leaders, teachers, school staff and former Board of Education members. Our operation is purely grassroots.

.....

Online organizing

How many emails/contacts has the campaign collected?

.....

Theory to win

How many votes does the candidate need to win? What's the plan to get there?

50 percent of the voter turnout for 2020 At-Large BOE candidates + 1 to win. Grassroots efforts across Montgomery County, including GOTV, meet & greets and fundraising. Variety of digital and print communications efforts.

This form was created inside of ourrevolution.com.

