

Name as it appears on the ballot: **Lynne Harris**

Where you live (municipality/area): **Silver Spring**

Date of birth (we keep track of age without asking for updates): **7/27/62**

Do you have children who attend or have attended Montgomery County Public Schools? Which schools and when? **Highland View Elementary (K-5 – finished 2014) Silver Spring International Middle School (finished 2017) Einstein High School – class of ‘21**

Current occupation and employer (may also list up to two previous jobs you’ve held); if retired, list your last job and employer: **Instructor, Medical Science with Clinical Applications – Thomas Edison HS of Technology (MCPS)**

Political or education advocacy experience (public elected offices held and when, as well as unsuccessful campaigns for office and which years; can include PTA or similar experience; do not include political party positions): **MCCPTA – which is the largest 501(c)(3) advocacy organization in MoCo:**

- **Legislative Committee Chair 2011-12**
- **VP Educational Issues – May 2012-May 2013**
- **VP Legislation/Advocacy – May 2013- June 2016**
- **Area Vice President – Downcounty Consortium – 2016-17**
- **President – 4/17-1/20**

Campaign contact information:

- **email:** Lynne4Students@gmail.com
- **website:** Lynne4Students.org
- **Facebook:** Lynne4Students
- **other:** Twitter - @Lynne4Students Instagram – Lynne4Students

**1 – Why are you running for this office? (75 words max)**

I believe in the power of education and the potential of every one of our 166,000+ students. I have substantive county-wide knowledge of our school system and know that equity, excellence, engagement, safety, and accountability are essential to every student’s success. I want to serve on the BOE to devote my knowledge, skills, and full-time energy ensuring that every day, every student in every school feels safe, valued, and welcome being exactly who they are.

**2 – What qualities or experience do you have to serve on the school board? (100 words max)**

I bring academic and professional expertise in nursing, law, and public health to all issues impacting our schools, plus the experience of being an MCPS parent, teacher and long-time advocate. I know and understand BOE, County and State legislative processes. Over the past 10 years I’ve partnered with MCPS, local PT(S)As and county agencies/partners on many issues, including mental wellness, increasing equitable opportunities, restorative and trauma-informed practices, child protection, crisis communication, pedestrian safety, safe technology, supporting LGBTQ students and staff. While leading MCCPTA we were a thoughtful, constructive, reliable partner, and were very effective supporting students and schools.

**3 – What is the most important issue in this race and what specific plans do you have to address it? (100 words max)**

MCPS must provide consistency of academic courses and opportunities, uniform excellence in delivery of them, and access for all. It should be easy for every student, staff, and family member to identify courses and programs common to all level-alike schools, locate unique opportunities not commonly available, and understand how to participate. Unique options must be geographically located so that all students can access, looking at transit as a resource. Information must be accurate, useable, easy to find and transparently shared. We need objective criteria for advanced courses, all students meeting those criteria should be enrolled, with an opt out option.

**4 – What is your opinion of the current countywide boundary analysis? (75 words max)**

I support the boundary analysis and the Scope of Work that includes benchmarking MCPS against other large school systems, especially those that routinely assess boundaries to proactively address issues such as capacity. It is essential to base future decisions on objective, comprehensive, county-wide, expert-derived data. Using, regularly updating and sharing this data, along with a routine process of respectful and substantive student, staff and community engagement should be the foundation of all future decision-making

**5 – Do you believe school boundaries should be redrawn? Why or why not? (100 words)**

Yes, boundaries should be adjusted. County-wide, at each level (ES, MS, HS) enrollment is close to capacity, but individual school enrollment ranges from 62% to 201% of capacity. Some under-enrolled schools are adjacent to over-capacity schools. The result is a poor use of resources and many schools with less than optimal learning environments for students and staff. This situation exists because for decades MCPS has failed to look, comprehensively, at school capacity and boundaries and make common-sense, periodic adjustments. We also have extremely high poverty schools, unacceptable in the nation's 18th wealthiest county

**6 – What is one issue the current school board has handled poorly? What would you have done? (75 words max)**

Timely, transparent communication, and meaningful engagement of students, staff and families, is an ongoing challenge with MCPS/BOE. Viewing the announcement of a decision as the start of engagement has not worked. The unwillingness to communicate and share data timely and transparently has resulted in a tremendous lack of trust. I would treat stakeholders as the smart, valuable partners they are and plan routine stakeholder work-sessions. Their wisdom and experience is essential to good decision-making.

**7 – How well has Jack Smith done as superintendent? Give specific examples (100 words max)**

Dr. Smith has shown a real commitment to equity, access, family engagement, and expanding academic options for students. During his tenure Career and Technology programs have grown, high quality advanced academic programs like the IB magnet are expanding geographically, and the Dual Enrollment partnership with MC has expanded existing and created new opportunities. In partnership with MCCPTA the MCPS Family Engagement Team has been recreated and expanded. At the beginning of his third year Dr. Smith added a Deputy Superintendent whose primary charge is looking at everything MCPS does through an equity lens.

**8 – What are the most important issues related to student safety? How would you address them? (75 words max)**

Threats against schools, pedestrian safety, school climate – our schools are the front line of child protection. We must: comprehensively adopt trauma-informed practices- students and staff work together making schools welcoming to all, seeing and supporting struggling students quickly; complete secure entrances at all schools; continue working with partner agencies to make school communities resilient, and enhance pedestrian and bus stop safety; promote Safe Schools MD Hotline -anonymous reporting of violence, bullying, and mental health crises

Commented [KR1]: Can you clarify what this means?

**9 – MCPS currently has an achievement gap for students of different races and socioeconomic backgrounds. How would you address it? (75 words max)**

Place experienced, highly effective teachers and administrators in the most challenged schools. Ensure that all academic and other opportunities are truly accessible to all students – looking at geographic placement across the county, transit as a resource, and as a last resort online access. Implement the community schools model at schools where poverty level exceeds 37% (countywide FARMs). Provide ongoing, excellent professional development so teachers have the strategies to support all students

**10 – Do you support raising the salary for school board members? Why or why not? If yes, how much? (50 words max)**

Yes. Current BOE salary is not commensurate with the full-time work required to tackle the complex issues of a large school system, intelligently spend 44% of county revenues, and ensure MCPS serves all students well. A minimum \$60,000 salary would allow individuals not retired or otherwise financially secure to serve