

Individual Information

Name/District

Gian Alfeo District 3

Campaign Address/Phone/Email

6367 Shadowshape place Columbia MD 21045

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Gianalfeo4hocoboe2020@gmail.com

Social Media Accounts

<https://www.facebook.com/Gian-Alfeo-for-Howard-County-Board-of-Education-District-3-107228234115001/>

Education History

High school grad

Languages Spoken/Other Skills

English

Relevant Experience

Budget review, Physical Security

List who has been compensated to provide services to your campaign. List your campaign managers. Note current cash on hand. Note your donations received and spent, although you need not include figures that are already filed on campaign finance reports.

Vista Print, and Signs on the cheap

Gian Alfeo campaign manager.

Approximately little over 2000 dollars on hand from donations, currently spent about 700 dollars.

Richard Hill 50

Mark Stine 50

Thomas J Harriman 1000

Gynda Rocher 150

Yajan Khanal 50

Steven Keller 50

Sheridan Phillips 1000

List organizations/groups/committees (both education-related and not) of which you are an official member. **SDM of America as a Shop Steward.**

Community Interest / Position Questions

1. Why are you running? Explain why you are qualified to hold this position. Please include your experiences doing volunteer or non-profit work, in Howard County and elsewhere. (Character limit please 1200)

I am running for the Howard County Board of Education because I want District 3 to have a voice at the table. I feel D3 is often ignored in Howard County. I am also appalled with how children with special needs are treated in HCPSS. IEP's and 504's are not being followed and accommodations are blatantly ignored. I was also highly upset by the socio-economic redistricting that took place last year. Howard County can do better. I have been a resident of D3 since 1989 and I am a proud graduate of Oakland Mills High School. I have two children in the in HCPSS. My oldest son is a child with Autism. I have volunteered multiple times through the years at my children's schools, for PTACHC, and am an active member of the Owen Brown community.

2. Do you believe the Board of Education race should remain non-partisan on the ballot? If so, how is your campaign remaining non-partisan? (Character limit 1200)

I believe the BOE should remain non-partisan. The education of children shouldn't be overly political. Politics will always remain in education, but it should be minimized. My campaign is remaining non-partisan because I am meeting with all groups and all people. I have not turned down an invitation and will not be based on politics.

3. Do you believe the Superintendent's requested budget is too high, too low or just right? If too low, how much should it be, and what other county budget items should be cut to fund it? If too high what should be cut from the request? (Character limit 1200)

I believe the Superintendent's Current Budget Proposal is just a great starting point especially for special education. Howard County should help with the health fund deficit so that money can be redirected to the classroom. We also have too high of an overhead especially at Central Office. We need money in the classroom and not a central office. Do we really need 6 people in charge of Transportation? Should secretaries at Central Office make more than teachers? These are the hard questions we need to look at and answer to solve our budgetary problems.

4. Over time, the County Council and Board of Education have often disagreed on where responsibility lies regarding addressing overcapacity. There are varying beliefs regarding restricting development and redistricting as tools. How do you suggest the County Council and Board of Education work together to

address overcapacity issues? (Character limit 1500)

The BOE and County Counsel need to work together. The County Counsel needs to take responsibility for past decisions that have caused overcrowding. Over development has caused massive overcrowding in many HCPSS schools. They will not allot money for new schools or renovations so the County Counsel needs to stop development until our infrastructure can catch up. Last Fall's redistricting opened many vulnerable communities to more development and that is wrong.

5. How do you define Equity? Suggest how the HCPSS can better ensure equity. Give specific examples, including how to accomplish those goals in the budget. (Character limit 1500)

Equity is offering the same opportunities at all schools. I believe overall most HCPSS schools are equitable in curriculum and the access to it. I will whole heartedly agree they are not equitable in capacity and the state of the actual buildings. We have massive capacity issues in many schools, and we have building literally falling apart. That is not equitable and that needs to be fixed. We need to focus on maintenance and upgrading current buildings. The Capital Budget needs to be increased and become a priority. We also need more money inside every classroom in Howard County and our Operating Budget needs to reflect that. We especially need this at our highest FARM schools with our most vulnerable children.

6. What do you believe Board of Education Members can do to help students achieve their fullest potential at all levels? Please include in your answer what you believe should be done to close any achievement gaps, be specific. (Character limit 1500)

Board of Education members can assure that all Howard County children succeed by ensuring programs, a curriculum, and an access to all opportunities that are available to them. This can be done by increasing money into the classroom, smaller class sizes, and offering safe and clean facilities to them. HCPSS should also be offering free afterschool programs in all schools for homework help, tutoring, and enrichment of our curriculum.

7. What are three things you feel should be Board priorities in the next one to three years? (Character limit 1500)

A. To maintain, clean, and renovated our facilities especially those hit hardest by deferred maintenance

B. We need to reign in our budget and focus on putting our money into the classroom and out of central office

C. Focusing on neighborhood schools and scaling back the redistricting based on socio-economic measures and redistrict based on capacity only.

8. Choose a 2020 local Howard County State Bill and evaluate it. (Character limit 1200)

HoCo 1-20: BOE Redetermination of Geographic Attendance Area

I oppose this as it is written. I am against any laws that would mess around with children's stability and require yearly redistricting. This would put children in flux yearly with no chance of lasting bonds with teachers, administrators, or peers.

I am not against redistricting based on capacity but there does not seem to be a set standard for determining capacity limits. The state and county both calculate capacity differently. I would like to find a way to determine real capacity that is acceptable at the local and state level.

This also takes away the Board of Education's prerogative and jurisdiction to decide when and where we need to redistrict and why. It is not the State's or Federal's job to tell a local jurisdiction and governing board how to do the tasks delegated to them. People did not like when the Governor mandated that school had to start after Labor Day because of the same reason: It is not the State's prerogative or their job to tell the local Board of Education how to conduct their business.

9. How would you as a Board Member, oversee, review and instruct the Superintendent? Give a specific example of each, where the Board of Education and Superintendent have fallen short, and done well.

(Character limit 1500) .

I will oversee, review, and instruct the Superintendent in a way to ensure the best interests of Howard County citizens are met. Dr. Martiano has fallen short in many ways from this disastrous redistricting to the current HCPSS shutdown for COVID 19. The children were left out in the cold with no access to learning or our curriculum. Why couldn't HCPSS open CANVAS up for remote learning? We have the technology why aren't we using it? He did great by ensuring our most vulnerable had access to food during the shutdown but all students were ignored in terms of access to the curriculum

10. With regard to school redistricting, what do you believe are the three top priorities, in order, that should be considered as reasons to redistrict, or be goals of redistricting? How would you suggest those goals be met? What do you believe was done right and done wrong in the most recent redistricting? (Character limit 1500)

The goals of redistricting should be to relieve overcrowding and for capacity. The goals should be to relieve overcrowding but to keep communities together to the best of our ability. The previous redistricting was not done correctly. The community was ignored and ripped apart and an illogical plan developed on the fly by Jen Mallo was pushed through with no vetting and blinding community members. Redistricting should only be done to relieve overcrowding and when a new school opens period.

11. Do you believe the HCPSS is serving the needs of the Special Education community? If not, what needs

to be changed? Do you believe there is enough funding for Special Education in the current HCPSS

budget? Why? (Character limit 1200)

I do not believe HCPSS is meeting the needs of the children and families with special needs. IEP's and 504's are not being followed, needed accommodations are being denied, and these students are not receiving a free and appropriate education they are guaranteed under the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is clear we are not probably funding special education by HCPSS. Special Education teachers are stressed, overloaded, and overworked. The Superintendent's operating budget is a good start to help special education, but we still need to do better. We need more trained special educators and we need to accommodate all these children's needs. The goal of an IEP or 504 meeting should not be how to deny as many services as possible but instead how can we help this child. We need to do more, and we can do better.

12. In what areas of public education do you refuse to compromise, due to strong beliefs? How would you

make changes in these areas? Give examples of how you collaborated and compromised with colleagues who disagreed with you. (Character limit 1200)

I do not refuse compromise, but I will not back down from what I believe is right. I do not flip flop on my opinions, and I believe my views is what Howard County desperately needs right now. I have had a lot of this in my career from when teaching a class to helping to developing the field training program for my department. While developing the program I had to work with a colleague on getting the direction and order in which we should cover topics. While I wanted a detailed step by step program for all topics, he wanted a short overview of them. We discussed it together and why we thought our idea was best, upon discussing it we decided for a more middle ground as an overview wouldn't cover enough and a detailed step by step would take to long and not be able to cover all situations

13. Give examples in your personal or professional life that demonstrate your willingness to hold people accountable and include transparency for the community. (Character limit 1200) **As a supervisor on a government contract I made sure all my officers understood what was expected of them and when they didn't meet the standards I made corrections either verbally or with a written counseling reiterating what I expected how I felt they could improve to meet the standards. I held all person to these standards including myself and if I fell short, I expected my officers to correct me.**