

Individual Information

Name/District

Matthew D Molyett, District 1

Campaign Address/Phone/Email

PO Box 2518

Ellicott City, MD 21041

matthew@elect.molyett.com

(443) 598-2441

Social Media Accounts

@molyett - <https://twitter.com/molyett>

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

Education History

Public schooling : Seneca East Local High School, Seneca County, Ohio

Undergrad: Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan [Computer Science/Mathematics]

Graduate: University of Maryland Global Campus, Adelphi, Maryland

Languages Spoken/Other Skills

English

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.

No professional consultants. No paid staff. Ad spend, literature expenses, and cash will be available in the Pre-Primary finance report.

List organizations/groups/committees (both education-related and not) of which you are an official member

NAACP, Community Advisory Council, Columbia Democratic Club

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 Board of Education because, as a father and a community member, I am concerned about the long term success, stability, and solvency of our community schools. The current Board of Education has shown itself unable to work together, find solutions, and make the hard decisions that the Howard County Public School System requires. As a technical leader at Cisco Systems I am required to make and execute plans and decisions regarding the handling of millions of events, network connections, and software inspections that occur daily. Understanding complex interoperating systems and processes and their underlying data is what I do. A school system the size of HCPSS is the embodiment of complex interoperating systems and processes, and these processes need to be refined and optimized. That is what I do.

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)

Yes, the Board of Education race should remain non-partisan on the ballot. It means that the election process of the race does not exclude or shape how the voices of the community get to choose who they want. A non-partisan race allows the final ballot to be between who the community has decided are the serious candidates without the winnowing by party.

My campaign is remaining non-partisan by running in a non-partisan race. I am a Democrat because I have found the people who share my concerns to be Democrats, not because of a faithfulness to a political party. I welcome the support of and campaign advice from anyone with a commitment to finding strong anti-racist solutions to the opportunity and discipline gaps. I welcome the support of and campaign advice from anyone with a dedication to full support of LGBTQ+ acceptance and success with an extra focus to ensure that they all survive to graduation. I welcome the support of and campaign advice from anyone with who believes the identification of student educational needs should be met by the professional staff of the school and never require parents to add legal costs on top of other parenting challenges to ensure student educational needs are identified and met.

I am an engaged member of the local Democratic Party and recently an officer in a Democratic club. To pretend otherwise would be disingenuous and I pride myself on being open and truthful.

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)

The Superintendent's requested budget left the unfunded deferred maintenance expenses growing. It did not include the technology investment that the COVID-19 situation proved was long overdue. Year after year the county cuts the requested budget regardless of how trim the school attempts to craft it. This implies the county leadership does not trust the school to request defensible, truthful numbers. Rather than focus on what dollars are asked for, the school system needs to instead focus on defending that those dollars are needed.

Classroom sizes, paraeducators, arts programs, STEM curriculum, classroom and educational technology, special education accommodations, student mental health, and physical education: every one needs to be provided, needs to be protected. Prove to the county, prove to the state that investments in education are successful and required. Account for each dollar spent and ask for as much needed.

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 County Council needs to assure that future planning ensures that areas of increased use, be that residential additions, new or expanded commercial locations, or increased industry, have adequate public facilities. If the traffic patterns exceed the available road space then no amount of Board of Education activity can successfully transport students through the area. Like the budget though, the Board of Education needs to show itself as an active partner in managing capacity. When a school ends up with 500 more students than capacity attending it, that is proof of poorly managed residential zoning, but it is also proof of poorly managing the school attendance areas around that zoning. County Council needs to be more restrictive to development and the Board of Education needs to be more responsive to the zoning and planning.

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)

Educational equity is providing every student the resources that they require to succeed, addressing barriers, and creating individualized support systems.

The Board of Education can support this goal by ensuring, and continuing to fund, that every building has a sufficient staff of counselors. Being able to talk to the students is vital for the identification of the barriers they face.

Once the resources are enumerated, the barriers are identified, and support systems created, then the barriers to equity have to be dismantled brick by brick. Students have to be rested, fed, and feel safe at school. Their curriculum needs to be representative and relevant. They need to be respected as people. They need to be disciplined proportionally and with the mission to help them succeed.

Student data needs to be reviewed to assess whether intended equitable improvements actually help eliminate disparities.

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)

Support principals. Support principles. Fund needs. Update policies that enshrine biases of the past. Advocate for the school system to governing bodies.

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

Protect student health and safety. Be conscientious stewards of taxpayer dollars. Maximize student academic success.

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Learn more: <http://elect.molyett.com/>
As HCPSS, We can do better.