

Alysia Birkholz, PhD

Frederick County, Maryland

December 3, 2025

Attn: County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

Re: Frederick County Board of Education; Frederick County Public Schools

Dear County Executive Jessica Fitzwater,

I am writing to express my heartfelt interest in serving on the Frederick County Board of Education. Frederick County has been my family's home, my professional community, and the place where I grew up and where my children are growing up. As an executive leader in the biotech sector supporting the county's innovation economy, a parent of two young children, and the mother of a child with autism who attends an FCPS school, I feel deeply connected to the future of our school system and the well-being of every student it serves.

My career in biotechnology has taught me the importance of long-term vision, evidence-based decision-making, and responsible stewardship of resources. I have led teams, overseen budgets, and worked closely with local partners to strengthen Frederick County's position as a national leader in science, research, and innovation. Through this work, I have seen firsthand how essential a strong public school system is—not only for preparing the next generation of scientists, engineers, and healthcare leaders, but for building a thriving, resilient community where families want to live, work, and grow.

As a parent, my connection to FCPS is deeply personal. Navigating the educational journey of my child with special needs has given me a profound appreciation for the dedication of our teachers, specialists, and support staff. It has also shown me where families sometimes struggle to feel seen, supported, and heard. I know how meaningful it is when a child receives the right resources at the right time, and how challenging it can be when services are stretched or communication falls short. These experiences ground my commitment to advocating for inclusive, equitable practices that ensure every child—regardless of ability, background, or circumstance—has the opportunity to thrive.

I believe Frederick County has an exciting future, and our schools are at the heart of that promise. I would be honored to bring my leadership experience, my understanding of complex budgeting and organizational planning, and my passion as a parent to the Board of Education. My goal is simple: to help build a school system where every student feels supported, every educator feels valued, and every family feels welcomed as a partner.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Board and to serve the community that has given my family and my career so much.

With sincere appreciation,

Alysia Birkholz