

RE: Board of Education Vacancy

December 2, 2025

Dear County Executive Fitzwater,

I am writing to express my interest in being appointed to the Frederick County Board of Education. As a Frederick resident, registered voter, parent of three FCPS students, stakeholder in Frederick's business community, and member of the Citizens Advisory Committee, I have gained a clear understanding of the needs and experiences of families, educators, and students in our community. I would be grateful for the opportunity to bring this perspective to the Board's work.

One of the first Board meetings I attended included a moment that has stayed with me. A member of the public used his testimony to deliver loud, intentionally provocative comments. What struck me was not the disruption itself, but the calm and steady response of the Board—eight members with diverse viewpoints who remained composed and focused on their responsibility. Even more meaningful was the response from the student board member, who spoke with courage and honesty. His voice reflected the hope and dignity our schools should protect.

That moment clarified why I kept returning to these meetings: to stand with those working to build an environment where young people feel safe, heard, and able to flourish. I believe deeply in strengthening the collective voices committed to a public school system that listens to its participants and responds with thoughtful, compassionate leadership.

My background includes collaborative leadership in business, board and foundation governance, and years supporting teams through complex, high-budget projects. My work has always centered on people—understanding their needs, encouraging communication, and creating the conditions for good work to happen. Raising my three children has shaped my leadership in profound ways. Parenting has taught me patience and deepened my ability to listen and respond with care. It has also given me a deep appreciation for the essential role our schools play in the lives of families.

My service on the Citizens Advisory Committee has reinforced my commitment to thoughtful, community-centered problem solving. I maintain strong relationships with parents, educators, and civic leaders, and I work to elevate voices across different experiences. I believe this steady, inclusive approach is essential to strengthening a public institution as vital as our school system.

If appointed, I will work to build trust, communication, and collaboration between the Board, schools, and the community. I will work to ensure that every student feels safe, supported, and able to thrive—and that every family feels welcomed as a partner in their child's education.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Frederick County. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my interest further.

Sincerely,
Charlotte McGehee