

From: [Maria A. C](#) [REDACTED]
To: [FCGBoards](#)
Subject: Application to serve in the Board of Education
Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025 6:37:46 PM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Office of the County Executive

**12 East Church Street
Frederick, MD 21701**

Dear County Executive Fitzwater,

I am writing to express my strong interest in the open seat on the Frederick County Board of Education. I have been a resident of Frederick County for seven years and am a registered voter. I would be honored to serve our community in this important role.

My commitment to public education and youth success is both professional and personal. For more than 25 years, I have worked in public health, social policy, and program leadership—roles that demanded collaboration, evidence-based decision-making, fiscal responsibility, and responsiveness to diverse community needs. These skills translate directly to effective school board governance. Throughout my career, I have led teams, managed multimillion-dollar social programs, overseen grants and federal partnerships, and worked closely with educators, researchers, community organizations, and families to improve outcomes for communities, particularly for vulnerable groups.

I have also taught at the graduate level for eight years, which has given me a deep appreciation for what students need to thrive academically and emotionally, and what educators need to succeed. I teach a course on health equity at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, a role that keeps me closely attuned to the structural challenges that different groups face.

My daughter, Sofia, attends Middletown Elementary, where I volunteer regularly. I also serve as Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Council for the Board of Education. As a parent and community member invested in the long-term strength of Frederick County, I believe a strong, equitable, and well-supported public school system is essential to our county's and country's future.

If appointed, I would bring the following strengths to the Board of Education:

- **A commitment to equity and student well-being**, ensuring decisions consider the needs of all learners, including students from marginalized communities.
- **A data- and evidence-informed approach** to policy and budget decisions, grounded in my strong data analysis skills and research training.
- **Extensive experience managing complex programs and budgets** with transparency and accountability, based on my long experience managing health programs.

Strong communication and community engagement skills, rooted in years of listening to and working with diverse stakeholders, as well as expertise in health communications and behavioral sciences.

- **Respect for educators and staff**, and a belief in supporting them with the tools, training, and environment they need to do their best work.

I am applying at a moment in my career when I have the time, clarity, and commitment to fully dedicate myself to local service. For 25 years, I worked to strengthen local responses to health challenges in other countries—primarily in Africa and Latin America. At this stage in my life, I want to contribute that experience, perspective, and energy to my own community. I would welcome the opportunity to help build a stable, forward-looking Board that puts students first and focuses on academic excellence, safety, mental health, and preparing our children for an evolving world.

My experience as an Ecuadorian-American immigrant who speaks Spanish, Portuguese, and basic French allows me to bring a unique and valuable perspective to the Board. Additionally, my significant experience in policy setting and analysis will make me an asset in navigating complex decisions.

As I finish this letter, my three-year-old son Jonathan is tugging at my arm telling me it is time to go play. He is right. If selected, I would be taking time away from moments like these to serve on the Board. I believe that time would be very well spent. I want to be part of the village of teachers, administrators, public officials, and policy makers who work to ensure that my children—and all children and youth in Frederick County—can access the best education possible, allowing every child to learn, grow, and thrive. That is the vision that motivates me.

Thank you for considering my application and for your leadership in stewarding Frederick County's education system. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Sincerely,

Maria A. Carrasco, PhD, MPH, MPP