

December 9, 2025

Office of the County Executive
12 East Church Street,
Frederick, MD 21701

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my strong interest in serving on the Frederick County Board of Education to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Board Member Nancy Allen, effective December 1. With over 14 years of experience in public sector roles - spanning education, family support services, program coordination, and community engagement - I am committed to contributing meaningfully to the governance, oversight, and strategic direction of Frederick County Public Schools.

My background includes work as a Graduate Research Associate with Global Migration Policy Associates, where I conducted in-depth research and prepared analytical reports on complex social issues. This experience strengthened my ability to assess policy impacts, evaluate data, and apply critical thinking - skills essential for informed decision-making at the Board level. Also, my service as a Home/Hospital and Substitute Teacher for Frederick County Public Schools has provided me with firsthand insight into student needs, classroom dynamics, and the operational realities faced by educators. I have supported students academically and socially, including assisting with FAFSA processes and workforce readiness, allowing me to understand the challenges and opportunities within our school system from a ground-level perspective.

In my previous role as a Learning Consultant and Mentor Teacher at The Learning Center for Families, I supervised staff, conducted eligibility assessments, and helped implement programs that supported families experiencing poverty. This work enhanced my understanding of barriers to educational access and the importance of early intervention, family engagement, and equitable support services—priorities that align closely with the Board's mission.

My volunteer service with organizations such as the American Red Cross, United Fire Company #3, and AMAR International Charitable Foundation has further developed my skills in community outreach, stakeholder collaboration, and crisis-responsive leadership. These experiences reinforce my commitment to public service and my belief in building strong partnerships between schools, families, and the community.

I am currently an adjunct faculty member in Towson University's Department of Political Science. I hold a Doctorate from the Geneva School of Diplomacy and International Relations, which has strengthened my ability to examine issues through global, multicultural, and policy-oriented lenses. I would welcome the opportunity to bring these perspectives to the Frederick County Board of Education to support students, teachers, families and to participate in the important work and processes of public educational governance. Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,
Dr. Desiree Mortenson