

Application for Frederick County BOE member

Mrs. Ru Yan

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December 4, 2025

Dear County Executive Jessica Fitzwater,

I am writing to express my sincere interest in serving as a member of the Frederick County Board of Education. As an active leader in the Frederick AAPI community, the current President of the Centerville Elementary School PTA and the founder of the Asian American Parent and Student Association of Frederick, I have had the privilege of working directly with students, families, educators, and community leaders across the county. These experiences have strengthened my commitment to advancing educational equity and fostering a school system where every child and every family feels seen, heard, and supported.

In my role as PTA President, I have worked to increase family engagement, build trusting relationships with school staff, and develop programs that enrich the daily experience of students. Through the Asian American Parent and Student Association, a nonprofit organization I founded, I have been able to amplify underrepresented voices and create meaningful spaces for cultural exchange and community-building. Highlights of this work include organizing STEM Night, Drama Club, Reading Club, Coding Club, Robotics Team activities, as well as planning the upcoming Asian Heritage Festival in collaboration with Urbana STEMM. These programs are designed to bring families together, celebrate diversity, and promote cross-cultural understanding within our school communities.

In addition, I am currently working with the Asian American Center of Frederick (AACF) to plan a series of juvenile mental health and anti-bullying assemblies across Frederick County Public Schools. This initiative reflects my commitment to supporting student well-being, strengthening preventive education, and ensuring that students have access to inclusive, culturally informed resources.

Across all of my roles, a central focus for me has been helping Frederick County to improve education quality by limited resources and to partner with diverse communities to increase student engagement and trust. I also wish that our decision-making bodies have a diverse representation and reflect the rich and growing diversity of our student population. I believe strongly that when leadership includes a broader range of lived experiences, perspectives, and cultural backgrounds, our policies become more responsive, our communication more

inclusive, and our students better supported by a school system that understands and values their varied needs.

If selected to serve on the Board of Education, I will bring a collaborative approach, a deep respect for educators, and a strong dedication to transparency and community partnership. I am committed to advocating for equitable opportunities for all students, strengthening family engagement across cultures, and supporting policies that promote academic excellence, student well-being, and innovative approaches to learning.

Thank you for considering my application. I would be honored to contribute my experience, perspective, and energy to the Frederick County Board of Education. I look forward to the opportunity to serve our students, families, and community.

Sincerely,
Ru Yan