

December 8, 2025

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

Dear County Executive Fitzwater,

I am pleased to submit this letter stating my interest in filling the vacated seat on the Frederick County Board of Education. My portfolio and history align with the Board's core focus and the interests of the County's students. My commitment to the school system didn't begin with this vacancy. It includes a years-long history of volunteering in local elementary and middle schools. I have engaged in meaningful partnerships and interaction with a range of governments across the state (and beyond); this includes the County Government on prospective collaboration related to environmental planning and programming. I have built strong ties to local organizations and NGOs in Frederick and throughout the state. Beyond this regional network, my work has a global presence, including being affiliated faculty at Addis Ababa University's Center for Regional & Local Development Studies. The above informs how I'd engage in County governance: *a commitment to locally embedded work which values global perspectives.*

Among the core goals of the Board should be to center student development related to career and college readiness so that every diploma holder is prepared for initial post-graduation steps, whether taken at FCC or Mount St. Mary's (or other colleges/universities), or in the workforce. This mandates literacy beyond the curriculum which supports a range of life skills and future experiences. My history of engaging in interdepartmental collaboration, as represented in the attached résumé, has developed my skill sets in concert with the above and is directly transferable to the Board's work in promoting the interests of Frederick County students and residents, as well as the broader interests of Maryland.

One of the hallmarks of being on the faculty of Howard University is teaching a student body from all over the world in a space where students are allowed to be themselves. This comfort, steeped in safety, is a bedrock of student success. My goals for the Board are to promote a *student-centered, teacher-driven, and parent-supported* educational environment. And while the goals of these parties aren't always congruent, what can't be compromised is advocating and working on behalf of marginalized voices and populations.

My university-level teaching has been awarded with a *Distinguished Faculty Member for Teaching Excellence Award*. I have taught a range of undergraduate and graduate courses; a common theme is advancing experiential and field-based learning and promoting collaboration

with external university partners, thereby enhancing student learning and praxis. A similar focus will serve County students well. In addition to my university teaching experience, I taught social studies and special education in public schools for half a decade: knowing what classrooms are like and the complexities involved in student learning is an invaluable perspective.

I have a history of academic fundraising within the grant space. And while this may not be in the direct purview of Board service, given recent assaults on public education, this dynamic is valuable in evolving times. And notwithstanding the recent Federal confrontation on a range of issues related to equity, diversity, and inclusion, I am as committed to issues supporting human decency, equality and justice as ever. This won't be compromised.

In the Winter of 2025 we sat on a panel at the Mobilize Frederick Conference at Hood College, where my interest in advancing the environmental, health, social, and economic well-being of area residents was illuminated on. The Board of Education's work aligns with these concerns, and the opportunity to serve as a member is a vital way to further the above goals. My history reconciles not only with the Board's mission to educate and support students, but also with the County's and Maryland's overall interests. I appreciate your consideration, and I look forward to discussing the seat further.

Respectfully,

Lemir Teron, PhD