

2022 CAC Candidates' Position Statements:

Rebecca Beall

I believe in public education. I believe education is critical to a functioning society. And, to quote Whitney Houston, I believe that children are our future. A quality public education is a right for every child, is the obligation of a society to provide, and is a vehicle to a successful and prosperous future for all of us.

This pandemic has certainly shone a light on the cracks in the system. And as we're still managing the impacts of COVID-19, the Blueprint is coming into law. The intention of the Blueprint is to elevate public education, improving outcomes for all children. It is a multi-pronged sweeping piece of legislation, that requires all of us to rethink public education. It is an opportunity and a call to plan for the future of our educational system differently. We all must, at some level, engage with this.

COVID-19 has highlighted the untenable expectations that have been quietly put onto educators. It has highlighted the declining interest in education as a career, exacerbating staffing shortages. It has shown the old ways of negotiation as lose/lose.

I am an educator, a special educator, and I believe in the intrinsic value of all people. Every voice is critical to the symphony of humanity. I study education, understand the laws and policies governing public education. I am product of Howard County public education, and proudly raised my daughter as a student in Howard County public education.

Musa Jafri

I am a recent graduate of the Howard County Public School System. During my time in the system I served as the student member on the Howard County Human Rights Commission, where we looked at the rise in hate crimes and the current history curriculum. I am now a Political Science major with a focus on educational policy and have a vested interest in seeing that Howard County is at the leading front of educational policy and curriculum.

I am a Political Science major, so I have experience looking at and comprehending both legislation and how it to turn idea into policy. I have been on the Human Rights Commission and have interned at county council and in the County Executive's office. I have led teams in boy scouts, and I think I would be able to find people to take the CAC spot on policy committees.

I am most passionate about the response to hate bias incidents in HCPSS schools and creating a more representative history curriculum that has a focus on Howard County's rich history