



**Noah Gale**

- 1. Please provide 3 words that capture your candidacy. Please provide 3 words that capture your candidacy.

Enthusiasm, Devotion, Initiative

- 2. Why are you running for the BOE? Is there a particular issue that motivates you to serve on the Board of Education.

I'm running for the BOE because I care about students, teachers, staff and public education. One of my biggest issues is to protect special education. I think we need more special education professionals and making sure that they all get the health benefits that are needed. I also think we need early screening of children by special education evaluators. Another issue is that we need to improve our school buildings and I support the upcoming bond referendum!

- 3. Please rate your work/life experience in



Please feel free to elaborate on any of the above self-rating.

As a younger person, I have less experience professionally, but I have been very active in the community and our school system. I have a legacy of very committed service and ongoing volunteering in our district. I have attended almost every single Board of Education meeting for the past several years.

- 4. In what school district or community activities/organizations have you been involved?

During my gap year in 2018-2019, I volunteered as an assistant to a teacher at Edgemont Montessori Elementary School. During the Summer of 2021, I had an internship with the Superintendent Dr. Ponds. I have volunteered to help at numerous



school and community events, including MEA Rap and Roll; Mayfair Committee; Pancake Breakfast; Fireball Committee; African American Career Day; Lunar New Year; Boogie Bash; Trunk or Treat

5. If elected, what are your top 2-3 priorities for the BOE? Specifically, what do you think the BOE should prioritize in the next year and what should be prioritized in a longer-term plan?

My top priorities are protecting special education and improving our school buildings.

6. In your opinion, what would be an "ideal/well" functioning BOE? How can the BOE be more accessible and more communicative with the community?

An ideal BOE is a group that functions openly, respectfully and collaboratively. The BOE can be more accessible and communicative by holding open house nights, meeting or speaking with parents on an individual basis, and, perhaps, putting out a newsletter. In addition, we must be committed to a culture of civility at our meetings and in our broader culture.

7. Recognizing that relationships are a foundation of our school community, what specific steps would you take to improve the relationships between the BOE and the district administrators, the various unions, and parents/caregivers?
1. Collaborative events;
  2. Respectful communication;
  3. Fair pay; and
  4. Accessibility.

8. What should MPSD do differently? Please be specific – academic programs, sports, civic programs, extra curriculars, etc.

We should supplement more inclusion classes. As a special education student growing up myself, I have experience first-hand the positives and negatives of the special education system. I think there are some concrete steps the BOE can take to improve special education. One is to add more inclusion classes. Another is employ more special education paraprofessionals. A third is to have screening early-on. A fourth is to have smaller class sizes in general.

9. What are your thoughts on school district's programs for special education students? How can the BOE better serve the special education students, and what would you do as a board member to ensure our special education students' needs are being addressed?

One way to close the opportunity gap is a strong literacy program that includes evidence-based reading instruction. In addition, early screening and effective intervention will also help. I also support having a student equity advocate. I think the BOE should have a leading role in addressing the achievement gap.

10. How can the BOE address the opportunity/achievement gap in our district? What are your specific ideas and plans for addressing the achievement gap and educational equity? In your opinion, what is the role of BOE in this area?



11. How should the BOE balance the need to provide a quality education with the need to manage the local taxpayer burden? What should the district's capital spend priorities be? Would you consider budget cuts, if so – what specific areas would you cut?

I think fixing the school buildings and hiring necessary staff. At this time, I do not think that budget cuts make sense.

12. Montclair is known for its magnet schools, which are supported by a unique school ranking and placement process and a "courtesy busing" program. What changes, if any, would you consider with respect to the magnet system, the school ranking and placement process, and/or the courtesy busing policy?

I am strongly in favor of the magnet system. Although, the school ranking in placement process can be confusing, it has done a good job of maintaining the diversity of our schools.