

Frederick Progressives

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March 11, 2018

2018 Questionnaire for FCPS Board of Education

Dear Brad Young, Candidate for FCPS Board of Education:

Frederick Progressives, as a chapter of Progressive Maryland, is a grassroots community organization that acts for social and economic justice by developing civic leaders and cultivating allies in order to advance economic, racial, and environmental equity, and to change our economic system for the benefit of all people in Maryland.

Learn more at www.ProgressiveMaryland.org

Progressive Maryland supports candidates who will work to build a society and economy that works for all Marylanders, with special emphasis on traditionally marginalized groups—low and moderate income residents, people of color, women, LGBTQ+, and all oppressed and exploited people. Elections can have an enormous impact on our work to reduce inequity and to improve the lives of residents all over the state. It is our responsibility not only to advocate for residents but also to empower them to engage in the political process at every level, from member-led canvasses to trainings for our members who wish to run for office.

To be considered for Frederick Progressives & Progressive Maryland's endorsement, please return the completed questionnaire by email to FrederickProgressives@riseup.net no later than 5 P.M. on Friday, March 23, 2018. Your responses will be available to the public at www.FrederickProgressives.com

Sincerely,

Josh Cassell
Secretary - Frederick Progressives
(301) 928-0697

Brad W. Young

1. What do you believe are the precursors for academic success?

The first precursor for educational success is being prepared to learn. We have many students that show up to our schools lacking basic needs. Pre-K for our students that need it is a great start. We also have students that are homeless and that come to school without proper nutrition. I have worked hard with "Blessings in a Backpack" to help them raise funds for meals they provide our students. I have helped them get several grants totally over \$25,000. I have also personally helped pack meals to be handed out. Students do not learn when they are hungry. I have also helped "Ship" which supports our homeless students. I have helped with supplies and I am participating as a pirate in their upcoming fundraiser. We need to do everything to make sure that when students arrive, they are ready to be educated!

2. Will you advocate for universal Pre-K in FCPS? If so, how can this best be implemented?

I certainly will advocate for Universal Pre-K. I will point out though that we have a serious issue with capacity for Universal Pre-K. We would not be able to handle it currently with the capacity we have now. It would require significantly more building space. That being said, I think we should start with making sure that all of our at-risk students are and continue to get it. When the resources and space are available, we should provide it to all students.

3. What does FCPS need to do to close existing achievement gaps in its student body and what programs, strategies or initiatives would you work to implement to do so?

FCPS has worked hard to eliminate the achievement gap. That being said, we have not been successful yet. We have a committee which meets and makes recommendations. As a school we have used additional resources to support those schools and those sub-groups that have been under achieving. We have received many grants that have been able to help with programs to eliminate the Gap. I am very optimistic that our new Lynx program at Frederick High will be a model that we can use throughout the system that will certainly help at the High School level. This will allow students the flexibility of getting their education on a schedule that meets their needs. It will also give them a mentor to help keep them on track. I do firmly believe that Pre-K education will help this issue as well. I opposed and think that the new school start and end dates that are mandated by the Governor hurt us even further. There is too much educational regression when there is almost 3 months between end and start. We have worked to add programs during the summer to address that problem.

4. How will you increase FCPS graduates' preparedness for higher education and/or the workforce?

I will again bring Lynx as a method by which we will help students be better prepared for college or the workplace. I teach at Mount St. Mary's University and work with young students almost every day. Lynx will help them understand what they need to be prepared for college by using the flexible schedule and by holding them to higher standards. Lynx will also help those that are going into the workforce be better prepared through work-study and apprentice opportunities. We have been working with the state and are one of a few counties that are taking part in the statewide initiative to provide work place apprenticeships.

5. What will you do to protect and enforce Policy 443? What other measures will you spearhead to defend our kids from discrimination and make sure FCPS is a safe atmosphere in which all students can thrive?

First off, I will say that I am extremely proud to be on a Board that adopted policy 443. We are the only county in the state that I am aware that has adopted such a policy. It took a lot of courage for the Board to go through the process and actually put it in place. I am 100% in support of the policy and will defend it aggressively. I am in the schools regularly and try to keep in tune with what is going on. Unfortunately, there always has been and always will be students that bully or make fun of others that are different. This cannot and should not be tolerated. Our schools have to take it seriously and address it when it happens. I will support our schools 100% in that effort. I was also on the Board of Frederick Community College when we were the 2nd Board in the State to adopt Domestic Partner Benefits in 1998 way ahead of the movement to do so in the state.

6. What negative effects do you believe the existence of the 287g/ICE program of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office have on students and families in Frederick County and what actions would you take to reduce or eliminate those negative effects?

I am unaware of any negative impact on our students in regard to this issue. I will say that I am 100% in support of educating every student that shows up at our school. It is our job to educate and we do that well!

7. What does FCPS need to do to improve student mental/ physical health/well-being and what would you work to implement and or support that would result in better student outcomes?

I have worked hard to add mental health positions to the budget. We have added 4 psychologists over the past 3 years and are proposing 2 more in this year's budget. I would like for us to have one in every building but the budget has not allowed for that. We need to make sure that students have access to resources when they are needed. I will continue to advocate for more positions that support these needs.

8. What outreach and policy solutions will you advocate for in regards to student poverty?

I have addressed some of this through the previous question where I discussed Blessings in a Backpack and SHIP. This is a community problem and will only be addressed properly with community involvement. I work hard to get outside resources connected with our schools, parents and students. I will continue to work hard and helping those students in poverty.

9. What policies would you support to schools and students safer from the potential threat of active shooter situations?

As a school system we are working hard to keep our staff and students as safe as possible. We have provided active assailant training through-out the school system so that in the unfortunate case of it happening that they know what to do. It was lack of training that lead to more deaths in several of the school shootings including Columbine. I do not support arming teachers or staff and think this would make schools less safe. I am proud that we have an outstanding relationship with our local police agencies and that our SRO's (Student Resource Officers) do an outstanding job in our schools. They get to know the students and have prevented a number of potentially bad situations from happening. I am in favor of common sense gun legislation that would rid us of automatic weapons, high capacity magazines and other military weapons. I am for extensive back ground checks and for legislation that would take weapons from those who are not competent to possess them.

10. If Frederick Progressives /Progressive Maryland does not to endorse you for this race, would that affect your willingness to work with the group in the future on important issues?

Not at all.

11. Would you be willing to support Frederick Progressives priorities by:

● cosponsoring legislation or policy?	X
● testify in support of legislation?	X
● write an op ed?	X
● speaking at progressive events?	X
● attending meetings?	X
● meet with our leadership group?	X
● give updates on shared goals?	X
● writing letters to endorse a labor organizing drive?	Don't think that is something the Board should do.

Other: