

Individual Information

Name/District

Jolene Mosley
District 3



Campaign Address/Phone/Email

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Howard County
Board of Education D3

Social Media Accounts

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jolene4boe/?modal=admin_todo_tour

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/joleneforhoco>

IG: @Joleneforhoco

Education History

BS Mathematics/ BS Economics

Languages Spoken/Other Skills

I do not speak other languages. I have many other skills.

Relevant Experience

I have been an active community member and advocate as well as an HCPSS parent for many years. I have the skills necessary to reshape data and analysis accuracy that currently interfere with HCPSS and Board of Education processes. I will collaborate with all HCPSS stakeholders to improve the health of the school system.

List who has been compensated to provide services to your campaign. List your campaign managers. Note current cash on hand. Note your donations received and spent, although you need not include figures that are already filed on campaign finance reports.

March 24th filing will contain information.

List organizations/groups/committees (both education-related and not) of which you are an official member.

Community Advisory Council - Vice Chair (2019 - present)
Operating Budget Review Committee (OBRC) - CAC representative (2019 - present)
OMHS PTA - Member (2016 - present)
Howard County Parents of School Music - Member (2012 - present)
2019/2020 School Year Policy Review Committee - General Community Member
AES PTA - Member (2010 - 2019); Managed PTA website (2017 - 2019)
Howard County GT Parent Academy Representative (2013 - 2016)

Community Interest / Position Questions

1. Why are you running? Explain why you are qualified to hold this position. Please include your experiences doing volunteer or non-profit work, in Howard County and elsewhere. (Character limit please 1200)

For many in our community it is no surprise that I finally decided to run for Board of Education (BoE) in District 3 given how active I have been over the last 13 years. I have supported public education by representing my children's schools in HCPSM, GT Parent Academy, PTA volunteering, chaperoning field trips, as well as helping in the classrooms. I have supported the BoE through being a General Community member on the Policy Review Committee, Member and Vice Chair for CAC and a representative on OBRC.

I am running:

1. I realized that District 3 has been historically underrepresented on the Board and needed a strong voice of an engaged HCPSS parent and active community advocate.
2. I believe my professional background as a data scientist will be a tremendous asset. I will bring evidence-based decision making that is thoughtful and well-reasoned combined with vast K-12 school system experience as an HCPSS parent to the Board.
3. My life experiences as a parent with GT and special needs children, my experience of having a child who survived cancer, my experiences of having four children who range from 4 - 17 yrs old all give me a unique perspective from which to advocate for all children.

2. Do you believe the Board of Education race should remain non-partisan on the ballot? If so, how is your campaign remaining non-partisan? (Character limit 1200)
Educating our children is the foundation for a healthy and thriving community and is an important topic for all residents of Howard County. There are two distinct points to this question that I would like to address. First, the ballot is non-partisan, which means that unlike other positions on the ballot, any voter -

regardless of party affiliation - is given the opportunity to vote in the primary election for the Board of Education. Restricting the Board of Education to a partisan race to the voter's party affiliation would limit voter access and thereby representation. Second, there should be no limitations on the candidate's chosen political party affiliation and it should be understood that they have the right to participate in the election process as an individual voter. My campaign is remaining non-partisan by reaching out to all voters in District 3 and has not received any help from either the Republican Central Committee or the Democratic Central Committee of Howard County. My campaign has supporters from various political parties and I appreciate all of the support.

3. Do you believe the Superintendent's requested budget is too high, too low or just right? If too low, how much should it be, and what other county budget items should be cut to fund it? If too high what should be cut from the request? (Character limit 1200)

The school system's financial situation is far from ideal and the school system is still trying to recover from previous BoE budget decisions, county level decisions, as well as trying to support a growing student enrollment. The Superintendent is faced with balancing not only what he feels the school system requires to maintain its current level of services, but also to repair past debts. This has forced the Superintendent to prioritize some areas and cut other areas, which is extremely difficult because these changes usually occur in instructional areas or programs. Another consideration in the budget request that makes it seem high is that County Executives in the recent past have supported funding the budget request by state category instead of an overall amount with which to work. Taking into consideration the fixed charges and obligations, this level of specificity reduces the flexibility of the budget request.

4. Over time, the County Council and Board of Education have often disagreed on where responsibility lies regarding addressing overcapacity. There are varying beliefs regarding restricting development and redistricting as tools. How do you suggest the County Council and Board of Education work together to address overcapacity issues? (Character limit 1500)

The burden of educating our children falls on all of us. We pay taxes in various ways as active members of our community and we all should be engaged to support a healthy school system. There needs to be open communication with more fluid and long-term planning between HCPSS stakeholders and the County Council when considering approving new residential development on many layers of the infrastructure outcomes (e.g., not only school construction and renovations, but also transportation impacts). These have to be honest conversations on strategy of balancing the needs for development and the needs of the school system to handle the growth of population and enrollment as a result of development.

One example of poor planning is prioritizing capacity issues while neglecting aging infrastructure and the use of portable classrooms as a long-term solution. They were placed at schools that were in need of redistricting their student body to optimize the

school experience for the students, educators and staff. Instead, some schools continued to be overcapacity and other schools remained at lower than targeted enrollment. The addition of portables in overcrowded schools also impacted the under-capacity schools because their maintenance and renovation needs were not met or have been deferred indefinitely. This further negatively impacts a school's offerings and opportunities in their school communities.

5. How do you define Equity? Suggest how the HCPSS can better ensure equity. Give specific examples, including how to accomplish those goals in the budget. (Character limit 1500)

Educational Equity is the identification and compensation for areas that create barriers to opportunity and success in education for students. The barriers of an individual student vary across all students but there are some specific demographic characteristics that have been identified to be educational barriers. A student's socioeconomic status, disability, race, gender and language are some examples of areas where students may require additional support for academic success. HCPSS supports these specific areas through identified programming. I believe funding should be budgeted based on a school's demographic characteristics, not just enrollment. Students should be provided support through staffing, supplies and services from Black Student Achievement Program, Hispanic Achievement Program, International Student and Family Services, as well as MESA. Feedback from students, families, and staff providing these services should be welcome and program offerings should be budgeted to support educational equity for the students. These programs should be reporting the graduation rates as well as any other feedback for the program.

6. What do you believe Board of Education Members can do to help students achieve their fullest potential at all levels? Please include in your answer what you believe should be done to close any achievement gaps, be specific. (Character limit 1500)

I would like to work on policy that focuses on school climate with the goal to encourage inclusion and tolerance. This policy would include school-wide training and workshops that are ongoing for all members of the school building community (including bus drivers). By encouraging a school climate where students and educators feel welcome and safe, boundaries that students face can be lessened to allow more educational progress. When students and families feel included they are more willing to attend school and engage in their education. Students that understand and welcome diversity and tolerance as the culture of their school, are more likely to support their peers rather than bully them and compete with them in ways that are unhealthy. Educators and other adults that interact with the school population will embrace the positive outcomes for their school communities and more easily see a student for their goals and be less influenced by their own past biases or flattened expectations based on demographics of their students.

7. What are three things you feel should be Board priorities in the next one to three years? (Character limit 1500)

1. I would like to see a review of the overall school system with a goal of identifying pain points the system has been dealing with and access the root causes of these symptoms. These root causes will then be analyzed and steps prioritized to repair these issues as well as minimize unintended consequences.
2. The Board should create policies to support funding formulas towards school demographic-based needs. More specifically, the policies should identify and implement funding formulas, not just on overall enrollment projections, but specific to programs that target more vulnerable populations so that these programs are supported and the students are graduating with success.
3. I would like to see diversity, inclusion, and tolerance initiatives prioritized. This should include changes in policy for the inclusion of new diverse materials in classroom teaching. This will align with training and workshops for whole-school culture building that welcomes inclusion, diversity and tolerance. The purpose of this policy would be to approve more diverse materials for curriculum and also fund the materials and time to incorporate them into the curriculum taught at all of the schools.

8. Choose a 2020 local Howard County State Bill and evaluate it. (Character limit 1200)
Howard County 19-20 is a bill presented by Delegate Atterbeary called the Commercial Building Excise Tax - Board of Education Deferred Maintenance. This bill is meant to impose a different tax rate on certain construction of specific types of buildings. These funds would be earmarked as a fund for HCPSS to use towards deferred maintenance costs. It seems to me that the intention of this bill is triggering some important conversations. Does the school system have adequate funding? What has lapsed due to not being accounted for on the CIP? Additionally, what impact would this tax have and how long would it take to resolve the deferred maintenance? I am not sure how the relationship between certain construction of specific buildings got linked to HCPSS deferred maintenance and if this is a relationship that makes sense. I do like how it provides some accountability to the county to identify, prioritize and bring back into the budget projects that have been deferred. It seems to open up collaboration in solving the problem that is deferred maintenance of the schools.

9. How would you as a Board Member, oversee, review and instruct the Superintendent? Give a specific example of each, where the Board of Education and Superintendent have fallen short, and done well. (Character limit 1500)

The betterment of the transparency in the relationship and collaboration between the Board of Education and the Superintendent, through the years, has shown me that different people work differently apart and together. This improvement in relationships should continue and honest conversations should continue to happen so common goals can be accomplished. When conflict of priorities occurs between the Board of Education

and the Superintendent, I would encourage the Board to work as a team to approach the situation with the health of the overall school system at the core of decisions. These decisions should include perspective from subject matter experts, HCPSS stakeholders, community advisors and the student voice.

10. With regard to school redistricting, what do you believe are the three top priorities, in order, that should be considered as reasons to redistrict, or be goals of redistricting? How would you suggest those goals be met? What do you believe was done right and done wrong in the most recent redistricting? (Character limit 1500)

I believe the triggers for redistricting are accurate in the Policy 6010. This policy is clear about what triggers a redistricting and what aspects for which the school system should be held accountable when making a redistricting plan and implementing that plan. I would like some changes to the process, however. I would like to see a data freeze from the time the feasibility study comes out through the whole redistricting process. The changing enrollment and capacity data as well as the differences in definitions of suppressed data made the data aspect of the process more complicated than it needed to be. Another process change I would like to see is a more iterative approach to the creation and changes of the redistricting plan. I would like the process to be a whole plan per iteration for BoE work and public input returned with another whole plan. This will allow more accurate impact analysis and more targeted issues reviewed.

11. Do you believe the HCPSS is serving the needs of the Special Education community? If not, what needs to be changed? Do you believe there is enough funding for Special Education in the current HCPSS budget? Why? (Character limit 1200)

Special Education covers many types of students in HCPSS. Student supports include a broad age range and a set of diverse needs. The school system has implemented least restrictive inclusive environments for students all the way to full-time residential needs. The students should be the center of focus in their education and school should be staffed in an adequate and transparent methodology that has goals and open communication between the school system, educators, providers, students and parents. The school system should invest in training providers to best support students' needs while maintaining workable caseloads within monitored guidelines. Early intervention should be emphasized through various routes so that children can work to their best abilities always instead of having to fall behind to catch up. School buildings, buses and playgrounds should allow all abilities to be included and supported at all times. Despite their best efforts, HCPSS should make improvements to serve the needs of the Special Education community.

12. In what areas of public education do you refuse to compromise, due to strong beliefs? How would you make changes in these areas? Give examples of how you collaborated and compromised with colleagues who disagreed with you. (Character limit 1200)

Public education should provide every student a free and quality education. I feel strongly that, especially in this current environment, students should feel safe and supported. The schools should have a culture that welcomes diversity and tolerance.

Schools should have adequate funding from the County, State and Federal governments and the Board of Education should make decisions that reflect the health of the school system in mind. I have discussions with strangers, friends and colleagues that disagree with me frequently. I work all of my interactions similarly by listening to understand and not just to respond. I ask pointed questions to gain insight into the perspective that someone is sharing with me. My decisions are based on evidence, thoughtful, and well-reasoned and that is how I plan to make decisions when I am a board member.

13. Give examples in your personal or professional life that demonstrate your willingness to hold people accountable and include transparency for the community. (Character limit 1200)

In all of my advocacy and volunteering in school work I have been transparent in sharing my resources and been accountable by following up when needed. I have worked with various community and advisory groups to support the school system and have worked to connect people from different networks where I saw it could be beneficial. In my professional work, I work with people around the globe and have the skills to follow up and support various needs and wants. When I believe there needs to be change, I am calm and persistent in making sure that happens.

14. For incumbents, what do you feel is your legacy you have left so far on the HCPSS? For other candidates, what do you want your legacy to be and why are you the best choice to create it? (Character limit 1200)

As a Board of Education member, a top priority is to remain persistent in elevating the voice of the people who are not currently represented. I will listen, pass the mic and work towards creating a healthy school system where we welcome diversity and tolerance as the culture of the school. I hope to work on a path where all are included, bias is removed and everyone is given the opportunities they need to be successful HCPSS graduates, while at the same time holding HCPSS responsible for their employees' needs.