

My name is Cathi George and I am running for Cumberland Valley School Board. I have been attending school board meetings for three years and I believe we can do better for our kids and families.

Parents Trust Our Schools

Parents put a lot of trust in their schools. They expect their children to get the best education possible that our tax dollars can buy. They expect school board members (who are not paid) to be good stewards of their hard-earned money.



I raised eleven children in Cumberland Valley School District and have grandchildren in the district now. This is a personal investment to me. Like you, I want my grandchildren to have the best educational experience available and with your help, I would like to help ensure that.

Math Matters

In 2024, 61.9% of our 4th graders in the Monroe Elementary school were not proficient in math. At Middlesex Elementary, 62.7% of 5th graders were not proficient in math. That's almost 2 out of 3 fifth-graders! (This does not include students who have been separated out for identified learning challenges. Check it yourself at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/data-and-reporting/assessment-reporting>)

Did you ever have a child who fell behind in math? It is almost impossible to catch up without a lot of extra help.

What are we doing to ensure our students are keeping up in math?

School Environment Matters

Parents have concerns other than academics. Just this year my 9-year-old granddaughter was struggling with a bully who threatened to hurt her dog because he was angry with her. Her parents asked that she not be in any groups with this peer, but the teacher felt it would be better for them to work together and learn to “get along.” This was unacceptable to her parents, who pulled her from CV and enrolled her in cyber school.

When parents enroll their children in cyber school, it costs Cumberland Valley taxpayers additional money. This is money that could have stayed in our schools if the situation had been handled differently.

Furthermore, not every parent can put their child in cyber school and stay home with them. A school that has a casual attitude towards bullying does not provide an environment where all children can focus on their work undistracted.

The Board must adopt a “no tolerance” policy on bullying and ensure it is enforced uniformly throughout our district.

Mental Health Matters

I have 30 years of experience working with parents, children, and families in the mental health field. The bullying that happens in our schools and online is only intensifying and affecting the mental health of our students. Parents are faced with challenges that previous generations didn't have. We need new strategies to provide the best environment for our children at school, allowing them to develop and flourish.

We must understand that our schools are not mental health facilities. We must maintain our focus on academic learning, building skills, competencies and self-confidence through mastery of these skills. Focusing on our primary function, academics, is what will serve our kids best when it comes to their well-being.

Parents Know Their Children Best

I will always be accessible to you when you have a question or concern. Parents are the most important people in their children's lives and know their children better than anyone else.

Please share your questions or concerns with me. You can reach me at 717-4707742 or email me at cathi.j.george@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Cathi George

Candidate for School Board; Monroe & Middlesex Township, Cumberland Valley
www.VoteforCathi.com

P.S. I want to ensure your children, and our grandchildren get a great education at Cumberland Valley! I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, November 4th!