

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.

I understand that 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 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 it's my desire 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, 64.3% of 5th graders were not proficient in math. That's almost 2 out of 3 fifth-graders! (These do not include students who have been separated out for identified learning challenges.)


What happens when kids fall behind in math? It is almost impossible to catch up without a lot of extra help.

We have to monitor this situation and make sure these students are progressing at a rate to catch them up with their peers.

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 gut her dog because he was angry with her. Her parents took it to the school and 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." Her parents ended up pulling her from CV and enrolling her in cyber school for a few months (until the bully in the neighborhood moved away) and now she is happily back in Cumberland Valley 4th grade.

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 the mental health challenges our students face today. Today parents are faced with new and different challenges than in previous generations. The stressors of parenting have only increased over the years, especially with the pandemic, and 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 and respond if you have a question or concern. Parents are the most important people in their children's lives, and they are valuable to the Board. If anyone has the right to clarify what they want to see for their children's education, it's the parents!

If you have any questions or concerns you would like to share with me, I would appreciate hearing from you. You can reach me at 717-470-7742 or email me at cathi.j.george@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Cathi George

Candidate for School Board

Monroe & Middlesex Township, Cumberland Valley

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P.S. I want to ensure my grandchildren get a great education at Cumberland Valley! I would appreciate your vote on Tuesday, May 20th!