

**Marsha Lovejoy, Candidate for Monroe County Community School Corp. Trustee  
District 4  
Responses to questions from the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce  
For the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election**

**1. What principles guide your decisions as an MCCSC trustee?**

*Children first* – Children will always be at the center of my decisions.

*Equity for all students* – I will be a tireless advocate working to ensure equitable opportunities for all students, especially the most vulnerable who have been hit particularly hard during COVID-19. All children should have access to high quality education.

*Communicate clearly* – Clear, transparent communication is the cornerstone of trust. Being a communications professional for over a decade, I will bring this expertise to the school board and help to build trust with our community.

*Listen to understand* – I will not only listen but I will *listen to understand* those in situations unlike my own. I will seek out feedback from those that haven't had a voice or have had a difficult time being heard.

*Rely on experts* – Our community is fortunate to have experts across many fields, including education. The MCCSC teachers, administration and staff are experts in education. We must rely on their expertise to guide MCCSC. Likewise, as we continue to navigate this new environment, we must seek out and rely on experts in topics like health, infectious disease, and achieving equity for all children.

**2. What is the board's role in helping navigate the school year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?**

The board's role in COVID-19 should be to understand the challenges that MCCSC is facing, listen to facts and data, work together and communicate clearly. We must rely on the education experts like the MCCSC administration, principals and teachers, to make decisions about education. Similarly, we need to rely on medical experts in the community for guidance on managing the pandemic. The school board should, as always, focus on representing the community while setting a high standard of educational quality for MCCSC.

Importantly, I believe the board needs to start adjusting long-term plans for budgets, objectives and metrics for MCCSC that must change due to the impacts of COVID-19. In particular, ensuring continued access to high quality education for the most vulnerable students who may have been hit hardest by a learning gap due to COVID-19.

3. **Other than the pandemic, what are the top three issues that MCCSC faces, and how will you address those issues as a trustee?**

One of the most important tasks in front of the next school board is to interview and hire a superintendent following Dr. DeMuth's retirement. Having the right senior executive in place is critical to MCCSC's ability to deliver high quality education that meets the needs of the students in the community.

The school board must support MCCSC as students, teachers, staff and administration adjust to the new landscape of education post COVID-19. With COVID-19, we've learned that we must continually evolve to meet the needs of students, regardless of our ability to be physically together. It is likely that COVID-19 has forever changed the landscape of public education. As a school board, we must ensure that we can adapt to support students and clearly communicate to parents and guardians as we evolve.

Finally, the next school board must focus on clear, transparent communication across all decision making to build the trust of the community to ensure a healthy future of public education in Monroe County.

In navigating these and all tasks presented to the school board, I would follow the guiding principles of children first, equity for all students, clear communication, listen to understand and relying on experts to inform decision-making.