

2024 MCEA Advocate



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Between January 29 and February 16, 2024, MCEA members will have the opportunity to determine which path we as a union take in the future by electing colleagues to serve on the MCEA Board of Directors. The election will be conducted electronically. You will be sent a secure link via email and must vote by 5:00p.m. on February 16, 2024.

Seven (7) individuals put forth their names for the Elementary School Director, three (3) put forth their names for the High School Director, three (3) put forth their names for the Middle School Director and two (2) put forth their names for President. Only one (1) individual put their name forth for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Those three (3) positions were elected by acclamation. Pursuant to MCEA Election Guidelines 7.1, we will conduct an election for the Elementary School Director, High School Director, Middle School Director, and President during this month.

On the following pages, please find (if provided by the candidate) the bios and photographs for each candidate. If the candidate gave a speech at the January 3, 2024, Representative Assembly, that speech is linked in this document.

Members will have an opportunity to participate in directly asking questions of the candidates for president. We will hold a town hall meeting on Tuesday, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. Members are encouraged to watch via Zoom-- keep an eye on your email for the link. Anyone wishing to submit a question can do so by emailing them to MCEAelections@mceanea.org. To ask a question, you must identify yourself by name and work location or your question will not be asked of the candidates at the Town Hall.

Those elected will serve from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027. Over the next three years, the winners of this internal MCEA election will oversee a negotiation reopener where we will attempt to, at a minimum, win a redesigned salary scale and improve staffing levels. They will also guide our union through public elections for board of education, county council, county executive, governor, state legislators, members of congress and senate, and president of the United States.

All dues-paying members may vote in all races. If you do not receive an online ballot, contact Jackie Thompson at jthompson@mceanea.org before close of business on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Remember – the deadline to vote is 5:00p.m. on February 16, 2024.

MCEA Board of Directors

Elementary School Representative Candidates



Ashlee Hewlett, *Clarksburg ES*

My name is Ashlee Hewlett and I have been working at MCPS for 6 years and counting. I started out as a long term sub. I went back to school and earned my masters degree in special education. I am currently a special education teacher entering my 3rd year. I am very passionate about not only my students but being sure that teachers are well taken care of so that we can teach and be our best.



Jennifer Knight, *Rolling Terrace ES*

I am a teacher. A reading specialist. An expert in elementary literacy and language development. I am lucky enough to return to PreK-12 after 15+ years in higher education. I'm more lucky to be in a dual language school with some superb teachers and students. I see so many amazing things every day in our classrooms. At the same time I see the need in those classrooms. A need I feel called to help ease through working with MCEA and providing my service. I bring a wealth of experiences to MCPS from many different states, organizations, and

school districts that strengthens our literacy initiative and builds teacher capacity and knowledge. I miss that level of service and want to help MCEA build a better community for teaching and learning. We need members who want to make change. I'm ready to bring change as a representation for our elementary staff.



Kristen Poole, *Stedwick ES*.

I am a second grade teacher.

Elementary School Representative Candidates continued on next page



MCEA Board of Directors

Elementary School Representative Candidates



Java Robinson, Piney Branch ES

I'm a National Board Certified Staff Development Teacher at Piney Branch ES. I have 31 years of teaching experience. I am passionate about my work with educators and have served as Elementary School Director on MCEA Board of Directors, Bargaining Team Member, EFR and MCEA Building Representative. Currently, I serve on many workgroups including the telework and professional development workgroup. In addition, I am the Chair of the Professional Development and Learning Committee, Master Lead Teacher for the National Board CPD Courses and facilitator of the Jump Start Training for National Board Candidates. I am committed to this work and ensuring that the needs of staff and students are met.

[Watch Java's speech.](#)



Laura Sutter, Sherwood ES

My name is Laura Sutter. I'm the Media Specialist at Sherwood Elementary School, a building representative and a member of the Political Action and Legislative Support committee. I believe this is a great opportunity to further advocate for educators and students. Educators are struggling, which only hurts our students. As a member of the PALS committee, I've been able to advocate to elected leaders and being a board member will give me further opportunities to advocate for better working conditions. Educators need help. It is hard to constantly watch my colleagues struggle, burnt out so early in the school year. I know there are things I could help fight for as a board member that would hopefully improve teacher retention and improve everyone's working conditions. [Watch Laura's speech.](#)

Elementary School Representative Candidates continued on next page



MCEA Board of Directors

Elementary School Representative Candidates

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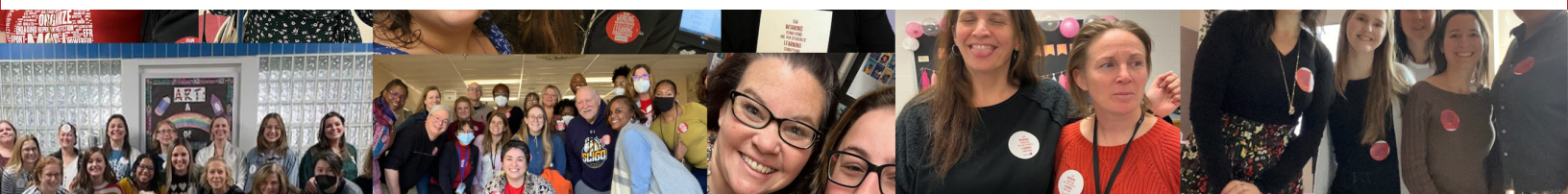
Jacqueline Sutton, *Flower Valley ES*

I am a Special Education teacher at Flower Valley Elementary school. I would like to help everyone get a better understanding of ways that we can join together and continue to grow both as educators and employees within the school system. Being a part of the MCEA will give me an opportunity to be both more vocal and supportive to fellow educators.



Emmett Tesler, *Roscoe Nix ES*

My name is Emmett, I have been working as a first grade educator working at Roscoe Nix. Our union is facing opposition from all sides, funding through county council, board of education elections with potential dark money. I would be honored to serve as the first transgender educator to help fight for MCEA and the students we serve. [Watch Emmett's speech.](#)



MCEA Board of Directors

Middle School Representative Candidates

Cassandra Belton, *Farquhar MS*. No bio provided.

No photo available

Joshua Rubin, *Loiederman MS*



During my time as a member of MCEA, I have often asked, “What is the best way to achieve greatness for all of our members?” Of course, with nearly 14,000 members, we have many different perspectives to balance. And so I have dedicated much time and energy to serving you in a variety of capacities. I cannot list everything in the space I have been allotted, but here is a sample that shows the many hours and days I have spent dedicated to our work: MCEA Bargaining Team 2022-2023; MCEA Parliamentarian 2016 - present; Chairman Credentials & Elections Committee 2017-2020; Chairman Constitution & Bylaws Committee 2017-2020; Delegate to MSEA 2011-present; Delegate to NEA 2012, 2015-2018, 2021-present.

[Watch Joshua’s speech.](#)

Christine Wilkin, *Shady Grove MS*

I have been a middle school art teacher for two years and a high school teacher for ten. I want what is best for all students and care about the health and well being of the students and staff. I believe it is important for all stakeholders to have a voice so we can make equitable policies and decisions.

No photo available



MCEA Board of Directors

High School Representative Candidates



Lindsey Allar, *Seneca Valley HS*

My name is Lindsey Allar and I am a Social Studies teacher at Seneca Valley High School. I am in my 7th year as an educator, and am an MCPS parent. I currently serve on the PALS Committee and represented MCEA at the 2023 MSEA Representative Assembly. I also act as a Building Rep in my high school. I have helped petition County Executive Elrich to support the recently-passed county rent cap. I have passed out Apple Ballots in the 2022 election. I would like to continue to advocate for high school teachers across the county as the High School Representative on the Board of Directors. I believe the strength of MCEA comes from the actions of its members, and I would like to contribute my voice and the voices of my colleagues to this position. Thank you in advance for your consideration. [Watch Lindsey's speech.](#)



Jody Gil, *Blair HS*

Hi- You might know me from the County Council sit-in last spring. I am a 22-year MCPS educator, teaching ELD at the high school level for 21 years at MBHS. In those years I have honed my passion for fighting for our most marginalized students in our community, fighting for the equity they deserve. The measure of MCPS's greatness is how well we serve our neediest populations, and time and time again I have heard words yet seen little worthy action. I have been active for many years holding truth to power in the ways I can: I am an EFR who has worked for years building a trusting and candid relationship with our principal and her team; I am co-chair of the HS CTL after serving as the HS ELD representative. Our activism is getting us seats at the table where teaching & learning decisions are made with MCPS leadership; I am head building rep at MBHS where we have nearly 100% membership, and we show up with our votes and our actions to fight for what educators and students deserve. I would certainly appreciate your vote so I can continue to show up for you as MCEA High School Director! [Watch Jody's speech.](#)

High School Representative Candidates continued on next page



MCEA Board of Directors

High School Representative Candidates



Stephanie Hasty, *Seneca Valley HS*

In her first year at MCPS, Stephanie Hasty hopes to serve Maryland schools in the same way that she served her former state of Missouri. There she was on the governance board, representing many counties in the southwest region of the state. She was also co-president of her local NEA chapter. Through this lens, she and her co-president partner communicated directly with the district to help her local NEA chapter rise up to the numbers it had been decades before. They communicated with administration and staff to help build a bridge of trust in the school community. She has also been on several committees including professional development, where she was a secondary rep for over 15 years. She looks forward to becoming a more active member in the MCPS community and knows that being in NEA is the best way to do this.



MCEA President Candidates 2024



Brandy Reazer, *Northwood HS*

It has been my pleasure to have joined Montgomery County Public Schools in 2001. During this time, I have worked in two locations: Alternative Programs and Northwood High School holding various teaching and leadership positions. My union association experience includes serving MCEA as building representative, elected faculty representative, chair and co-chair of Credentials and Elections, contract negotiations team members, and high school co-chair with the Councils on Teaching and Learning. I have also served for a number of years on the MSEA and NEA Resolutions Committees. I have run for MCEA Board of Directors seats in the past, but what I lack in direct experience I make up for in my listening and organizational skills. Elections should be about having options. I want to offer options to our members. Being able to serve as President of this association would give members other options to consider when making this important decision. [Watch Brandy's speech.](#)



David Stein, *Blair HS*

I am David Stein, math teacher at Blair HS, and I am thrilled to be seeking the office of MCEA President. I have 30 years classroom experience, 27 in MCPS. If elected, I will be a president who understands the joys and tribulations of today's educators. I currently serve as MCEA Treasurer and have been a member of the last two bargaining teams. I also served for many years as head building rep, EFR and member of our PALS Committee. Through that experience, I have become well-acquainted with MCEA's work. We have had great accomplishments, including the best contract in recent memory, but we have much more work to do. We need to continue to develop our collective voice to advocate for our needs. Experienced and thoughtful leadership will be a big part of getting that done, and I am ready and able to serve in this role. [Watch David's speech.](#)



Races Won by Acclimation



MCEA Vice President

Danillya Wilson, Wheaton Woods ES

I am Danillya Wilson, a first-grade teacher in a Title-1 community school, and I am excited to serve as MCEA Vice President. Teaching has been my passion, and I understand the daily joys and challenges of our profession. I currently serve as MCEA Secretary and MSEA Region 3 Director, allowing me to advocate for educators at various levels. I am an active member of the PALS Committee, the Technology Workgroup, and the MSEA MAC. Also, I've served as an MSEA/NEA PAC Captain, engaging in political action to support our profession. As a Building Rep, EFR, and member of the bargaining team, I've connected with fellow educators, understanding their concerns. I envision a future where we unite as educators, amplify our voices, and build a stronger, more empowered Union. With my leadership experience and deep understanding of our profession, I am ready to lead MCEA toward a brighter future.



MCEA Treasurer

Kember Kane, Westover ES

My name is Kember Kane, and I am a kindergarten teacher. Although I had hoped to continue in my new role as Elementary School Director, I am happy to serve as MCEA Treasurer. I have been a building representative, head building rep, bargaining team co-chair, member organizer, and an active member of MCEA for years. I consistently attend and participate in representative assemblies, union actions, and power building events.

Building educator power and unity is a daily muscle that we need to flex! I am ready to continue my service in the Treasurer capacity for my fellow members.

Races Won by Acclimation continued on next page



Races Won by Acclimation



MCEA Secretary **Dustin Jeter, Blake HS**

My name is Dustin Jeter and I am ready to serve as MCEA Secretary. I am an 18 year veteran teacher of MCPS, currently teaching Social Studies at Blake High School. I firmly believe that the opportunity for a quality education is the most important thing we can provide for our next generation and to do that we need an educator workforce that is respected, supported, and empowered. As your MCEA Secretary my goal will be to strengthen our union

by empowering educators so we can continue to provide the education that our students deserve. As an At Large Member of the MCEA Board of Directors, Chair of the PALS Committee, two time Bargaining Team Member, NEA PAC Captain, former Building Rep, and former EFR, I have the experience and dedication to work hard for our members. several committees including professional development, where she was a secondary rep for over 15 years. She looks forward to becoming a more active member in the MCPS community and knows that being in NEA is the best way to do this.



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