

2026

MCEA Guide to
Union Elections

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MCEA members can determine which path we, as a union, will take in the future by voting to elect five of your colleagues to serve on the MCEA Board of Directors. In this election, members can vote for one of three candidates for At-Large Director. All other races were won by acclamation. Those elected will serve from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2029. They will guide our union through public elections for the Board of Education, the County Council, and the County Executive.

On the following pages, please find the bios and photographs for each candidate (if provided by the candidate). All bios were provided by the candidates and are presented here unaltered.

The election will be conducted electronically. **The voting period is from Monday, January 26, 2026, to Friday, February 13, 2026.** You will receive a secure link via email from Intelliscan (the third-party ballot vendor) to your personal email address, if it is on file. You must vote by 5:00 pm on February 13, 2026. If your personal email is not on file, you can vote at this link, using your MSEA ID, by February 13, 2026.

All dues-paying members may vote. **If you do not receive an online ballot, please contact Mai Lien Le at mle@mceanea.org before the close of business on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.**

The voting deadline is Friday, February 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

MCEA Board of Directors Elementary School Representative Candidate

Elyse Eisenberg, Wyngate ES



Elyse is a 2nd grade teacher in her thirteenth year teaching and tenth year in MCPS. She has previously taught sixth grade, 3rd grade, and kindergarten. Elyse joined the MCEA Board of Directors as an elementary director last year, following several years of being a building rep, EFR, on the 2022-2023 Bargaining Team, and beginning work representing elementary needs on the Curriculum and Instruction ASLMC. She was a delegate to NEA and MSEA in 2024 and 2025 and looks forward to returning and continuing to represent the various needs of MCEA in 2026.

See the candidate's speech [here](#).

This candidate won by acclamation.

MCEA Board of Directors High School Representative Candidate

Greg Zemel, Albert Einstein HS



My name is Greg Zemel, and for the past 14 years, I have taught English at Albert Einstein High School. I have worked with students of all backgrounds and ability levels. When I'm not teaching, I represent my colleagues as a Building Representative. I run 10-minute meetings, explain contract language, and help people navigate tricky situations with administration. I am running for the High School Director position on the MCEA Board of Directors because I want to keep our union strong. I want to communicate effectively and organize strategically with members. I look forward to earning your vote!

See the candidate's speech [here](#).

This candidate won by acclamation.

MCEA Board of Directors Non-School Based Representative Candidate

Suzie Djidjoli, Interact Program - Lynnbrook Annex



Hi! I'm Suzie- a knitter, foodie, bibliophile, color theory enthusiast, speech-language pathologist, and mom who recently became an MCPS parent too. I'm running for re-election as Non-School Based Director to continue championing members, elevating the voices that might otherwise be overlooked, especially those of non-school based staff, special educators and related service providers, and those in challenging school environments. Some wins I supported during my last term include increasing the national license supplement for non-NBCTs, creating an SLP workload workgroup, and increasing the metrics used to identify schools with climate concerns. I strive to be a solutions-driven leader who isn't afraid to call out bad practices- and I'm ready to keep pushing for what our members need to truly thrive.

See the candidate's speech [here](#).

This candidate won by acclamation.

MCEA Board of Directors At-Large Representative Candidates

Robert Allia, Newport Mills MS



With 28 years of teaching experience and a licensed administrator for twenty years, I offer a deep, classroom-level perspective complemented by administrative acumen. My leadership roles include Chair of the World Language Department for 9 years, where I guided department initiatives. I have actively shaped school policy as a member of the school improvement team and testing committee, and led student success by running the 9th grade intervention program.

I am committed to developing colleagues, evidenced by my continuous work mentoring newer teachers and my active involvement in the MFLA. My positive, can-do attitude is driven by a passion for advocacy and advancing professional standards. I am the ideal candidate because I bring a blend of long-term classroom commitment, proven leadership across administrative and academic areas, and a relentless focus on supporting both students and educators. I will use this experience to advocate for our members on the MCEA Board.

See the candidate's speech [here](#).

Justin Fautroy, Arglye MS



Hello World! I'm Justin Fautroy, computer science teacher at Arglye Middle School and current MCEA At-Large Director.

I engage in union work to ensure the future of our profession is one where each generation of educators find themselves supported, appreciated, and well-equipped to create the schools our students deserve. My work on workgroups, committees, and the Board allowed me to develop a deep knowledge of the behind-the-scenes machinations that show me how our system works and what levers need pulling to make real change.

Now, more than ever, experience doing this work is critical. With all the pressure on our district, our core beliefs, and our profession, it is going to take a tremendous fight to ensure the next generation of educators even has a profession to enter, let alone one that allows them to succeed. With your support, I will return to the Board of Directors and continue to use my experience and expertise to fight for you, for me, and for the students we serve.

See the candidate's speech [here](#).

Kate Ross-Keller, Infant/Toddlers - Upcounty - (Neelsville)



I have been an occupational therapist in MCPS for over 25 years, and have served as a building rep, member of the MCEA BOD, MCEA rep to MSEA and NEA, and bargaining team member.

I have a unique perspective on education given my personal experience as an adoptive mom to 2 children with disabilities (one who is learning English, and both who have experienced ACES). Parenting my girls has transformed who I am as an educator and has broadened my understanding of how our education system works and what it needs.

My passions include: Equity for students and staff; Working conditions and workload, particularly for special educators and related service providers; Inclusive classrooms that have ample supports for educators and students; Collaboration; Benefits (healthcare is a passion of mine).

I believe in neurodiversity affirming education because it fosters improved mental health and creates effective advocates who are lifelong learners.

I would love the opportunity to serve again!

See the candidate's speech [here](#).

MCEA Board of Directors

Retired Representative Candidate

David Nicholson, Retiree



Having been a board of directors' member for both MCEA and MSEA, I am very familiar with what this position represents. Now that I have retired, I realize that our future depends on never taking anything for granted. I want to help fight for what is right for our teachers and students.

I was a teacher and building rep for 25 years at Springbrook High School and before that I taught in Baltimore County. Experience counts.

See the candidate's speech [here](#).

This candidate won by acclamation.

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