

Paula Januzzi-Godfrey

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REASON FOR RUNNING FOR OFFICE

I have been an educator for 35 years and I love teaching and public education. I want to be on the Durham School Board because I think we need someone on the board who

will stand up for students and teachers. I will really listen to students, teachers and parents and do my best to make decisions that are fair for ALL students and teachers in Durham Public Schools. I want Equity for all schools! I do not feel that all schools are treated equally, and I want that to stop. I do not believe in judging a student, teacher or school by test scores. I know many, many students who work hard and who are absolutely brilliant, but they don't get high test scores. This does not mean that they should be treated any differently than students or schools with high test scores. I have mentored over 80 teachers and they all deserve equal support and resources, no matter which school they teach in or where the school is located in Durham.

TOP 3 PRIORITIES

EQUITY FOR FAMILIES (students and parents) I want more teachers and principals to understand that being bias and racist means and how that affects the way they may be treating students and families unfairly. I want Durham Public Schools to have less suspensions, especially for black and brown students. I want every student to be treated with fairness and not to be judged for looking, sounding or acting differently than others. I also want more translators for our families and students who do not speak English. I want students who need services to help them learn and be successful to get those services without their families having to fight for them. I want every student to feel safe at their school.

EQUITY FOR EDUCATORS (teachers and administrators) Another priority for me is to recruit and retain teachers, especially teachers of color. Teaching is a hard job, but I believe that it is one of the most important jobs in the world. I want to make sure that Durham Public Schools has teachers who are brown and black, so our students have role models in schools who look like them and who represent different cultures and languages. I also want teachers to be paid more and to be treated like professionals, including having high quality professional development that is meaningful to them.

EQUITY FOR ALL (schools) I want to make sure that the new Universal Pre-K programs are providing quality care and early childhood education for all of the young students they serve. We need all of our youngest students to have a strong start so they can be successful when they start kindergarten. Another equity issue I care about is the fact that all schools are not treated fairly. I have worked in many different schools across Durham and I have seen for myself that some schools need repairs, some schools have unsafe playgrounds or athletic facilities, and some students and teachers are not treated the same.
