

Jovonia Lewis

CANDIDATE FOR: School Board, District A

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REASON FOR RUNNING FOR OFFICE

I want to serve on the Durham Public School Board of Education because I care about the academic success of all children and the importance of educating and embracing the whole child. I also value the family and community engagement to support the success of whole child. I want to be able to inform and support policy and practices that puts the students' academic success first while including social, emotional, equitable and restorative practices.

TOP 3 PRIORITIES

Academic success for all kids to create practices that educate and embrace the whole child. When I talk about embracing the whole child, I am particularly referring to their social emotional health and wellness. It is equally as important to have strong academic outcomes, but we need to make sure that we are supporting kids to reach their full potential in the arts and sciences, social interactions and building confidence and self-esteem. I will advocate for more support staff and more counselors. I will continue to build bridges of collaboration in the community to support the whole child.

Bridge communication and relationship between school, teachers and families. Centering the school within the community would improve Durham Public Schools. Creating a genuine community of support around students that includes the voices of marginalized parents. I would like to influence the education and empowerment of parent voices to know their student rights and advocate for the whole child to be educated. There should be a specific policy that speaks directly to engaging marginalized families. Parents should feel welcomed, understood and seen as the expert with their child to increase a positive relationship and support for teachers and schools.

Re-district to ease over-crowding and increasing equity within our schools is necessary to support the academic success of students. I would advocate for a plan that is inclusive of research, foreseeable trends and family input from those most impacted by the changes. Every decision must be made with the success of every child in mind and the equitable distribution of resources. I will work to make sure we have racially and economically balanced schools that are reflective of the real world. I will make sure that the communication is going out to families in various forms, include student voices and their needs and make decisions that is best for the District as a whole. Our communities are stronger when every single voice feels heard and when residents have access to the resources they need to thrive.