



2026 Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Kelli Slattery McClelland

Position: School Board

District: 3

What are your fundamental personal values that will guide your proposals and decisions if elected to the Board of Education?

Every single child is entitled to and deserves a free and appropriate education. They deserve to feel a sense of safety and belonging within their school community. I believe neighborhood schools are central to community connection. I believe in building coalitions to solve problems.

What is your position regarding bans on books and specific curriculum content in schools?

I think it is important to follow the policies and review procedures set by the board that are in place when making any decisions regarding materials to be used in the school system. I believe in our teachers and librarians to make thoughtful decisions about the resources they use to support their instruction. I believe it is a value added proposition to have a variety of text with a variety of characters and subject matter available to students.

Is your campaign accepting funding from PACs and/or out-of-state or out-of-county donations?

I do consider this to be a grass roots effort for the people of district 3 and will spend my time and effort working within my district to gain the support of my constituents. I will accept donations from out-of-county and out-of-state, specifically from friends and family, who will happily donate to support a positive change in the district where my children attend school, and because they know I am the right person for this job. I will consider accepting donations from local PACS that align with my values and are invested in protecting public education.

What is your position permitting students to opt out of certain portions of the approved curriculum? If in favor, how would that work in practice?

Because there are review processes and standards in place for curriculum decisions, I do not think it is generally appropriate to allow parents to opt out of portions of the approved curriculum. I will never opt my own children out of the approved curriculum, because I will



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always stand on the side of more education and information available to students. I recognize there are a few select topics, such as reproductive health, that parents are able to opt their children out of, and I think we must follow those policies as long as they are in place.

How will you address the funding losses you will experience as the Federal funding shrinks? If you would recommend cutting programs, which ones would those be?

First of all, I would ensure the budget complies with the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. Second of all, I would prioritize resources directly impacting classrooms, teachers, and students. I would also need to consult constituents, teachers, and administrators about their priorities to guide my funding recommendations and decisions. I also believe that part of making decisions about budget cuts is finding creative ways to mobilize local resources and communities to fill gaps while fighting to restore and expand funding where necessary.