

Ruth

On Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 9:03 AM Coffey, Cristy <cmcoffey@fcps.edu> wrote:

Dear Ruth,

I am happy to schedule this call with Megan for you. She is available at 11 a.m. If that is not good for you, I could fit you into the afternoon – please let me know your general availability. Kindly provide the best number for her to call as well.

Will you please provide the number you used to leave a voicemail message? If possible, the date/approx. time you called would also help me track the problem. Voicemail messages should be automatically sent via email to Megan, so I would like to have as much information as possible to have our IT team look into this.

Thank you,
Cristy

Cristy Coffey

Executive Administrative Assistant to:

Ricardy Anderson - Mason District

Megan McLaughlin - Braddock District

Fairfax County School Board Office

Phone: 571-423-1064

Fax: 571-423-1067

From: McLaughlin, Megan (School Board Member) <momclaughlin@fcps.edu>

Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 12:43 AM

To: R M <ngoilela@gmail.com>

Cc: Coffey, Cristy <cmcoffey@fcps.edu>

Subject: Re: [External] URGENT MEETING on merit lottery: TJ Alumni Letter and Follow up to testimony at last week's school board meeting 6/18/2020

Good evening Ruth,

Thank you for contacting me again regarding TJ Admissions. I am not aware of any problems related to constituents leaving messages on my office phone. However, I will definitely touch base with my assistant Cristy to ensure the public is able to reach me in this manner.

With respect to my responding to TJ Admissions emails, I have received over 700 in just the past two weeks. This is in addition to the countless emails I have received from concerned parents and employees since June re: FCPS' Fall Return to School plans, and a myriad of other topics. This is why my email auto-reply states that I am unable to respond to every email related to constituent input, but I will do my very best to respond to those requesting direct assistance.

Prior to my 8 years of service on the school board, I was a tireless community advocate working to improve FCPS' accountability, transparency, and community engagement. Thus, I deeply value community input as it often provides substantive data and research to help the School Board and FCPS make more informed decisions.

Regarding Supt Brabrand's current proposal, I remain very disappointed that it lacks research, data analysis, and best practice "benchmarking". As a former Georgetown Admissions Officer and social worker, I strongly believe in the importance of ensuring equity of opportunity for all students. However, Dr. Brabrand has created a false urgency that FCPS must drastically overhaul the TJ Admissions process within a three week decision-making window. Taking premature action will be a disservice to all students and our Commonwealth. (That said, I agree with concerns related to the Quant Q test, and feel a better universal screener for STEM aptitude needs to be identified.)

At this stage, I have been working with several school board members to develop alternate options to improve TJ Admissions and have since shared this information with Dr. Brabrand. During my time at Georgetown, I saw firsthand how elite colleges successfully utilize a holistic review process to ensure their accepted students are demographically diverse and high-achieving. I am confident FCPS can strategically refine its existing holistic admissions process to similarly ensure a more diverse student population, as well as create a more level playing field for disadvantaged students. In contrast, a random lottery cannot ensure the same.

Given the Board has a TJ Admissions work session next Tuesday, I will ask my assistant Cristy to schedule a quick phone call for us on Monday.

I look forward to our conversation,
Megan

Megan O. McLaughlin
School Board Member
Braddock District

Office: 571-423-1088

Cristy Coffey
Executive Administrative Assistant
Fairfax County School Board Office
Phone: 571-423-1064

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On Oct 1, 2020, at 10:34 PM, R M <ngolela@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Megan,

I sent you this email back in June, but have not heard back from you or your office. As a Braddock District resident, I would like to set up a call with you in the next couple of days to discuss this urgent issue. I tried calling the number on your webpage but got no response, as did other neighbors and family of mine in Braddock district who mentioned that they also called.

Exhibit 23