



CANDIDATE SPOTLIGHT

VIKTORIA HUNYADI

SCHOOL BOARD - ALGONKIAN DISTRICT

CANDIDATE: **VIKTORIA HUNYADI**

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You have an interesting background. What would you like voters to know about you?

I was born and raised in Hungary and moved to the United States about 20 years ago. My husband and I live in Sterling with our two children. Both of our kids attended Loudoun County Public Schools.

I have a background in the travel hospitality industry, but I always had a desire to leave an impactful legacy for our children, so after I graduated with a master's degree in Christian Education, I transitioned my career to my passion, and I became a director for the children's ministry at a large church. I also worked as a substitute teacher in LCPS. Now I am dedicating all my time to my campaign. I am in this race to win it because we need new leadership on our school board which has lost its focus on accomplishing its mission to achieve academic excellence, work closely with families and communities, and make schools a safer place.

My experience as a substitute teacher, as well some school board policies and seeing the erroneous use of our tax dollars made me decide to run for school board so we can achieve excellence in education.

Tell us a little about your Master's in Christian Education?

I am a third generation Christian, and my faith in God helps me to stand for the truth. I am seeing a seismic cultural shift in the way we are raising our next generation as well as morals and values that we used to stand for is not there. My faith background will help restore morals in schools as well as respect. Children need to learn to respect authority. As a substitute

teacher I have experienced a lack of respect from students. We also need to make sure that when students come to school, we are focused on education and not indoctrination. CRT, DEI, and gender equality are all embedded in the curriculum. There is a heightened level of bullying because of these policies that do not support an environment for teaching. It's affecting both teachers and students because these policies cause interruptions for teachers having to redirect children from certain behaviors. Strong values that I stand for will restore morale in schools and we need to put policies and tax dollars to support a thriving education environment for teachers and students.

Have you ever held public office before?

No, but I am in it to fight for children because politics has taken focus away from the basics: reading, writing and math. Our students are performing below grade level. We must help prepare the next generation to be responsible adults with good jobs and whatever they would like to achieve. They need to be able to make good decisions and be accountable to be good citizens and pass on the legacy to future generations. There has been a huge seismic shift in our education system, and we need to take back the school board to turn this trend around and save our children.

You had mentioned certain school board policies have caused an increase in bullying. Will you say more about that?

Yes, for example I believe Policy 8040 that promotes gender equality was counter intuitive because putting so much focus on gender ideology has caused transgender kids to be bullied as well as transgender kids bullying kids who don't agree with them. I have zero tolerance for any type of discrimination, and we should not have policies that deviate so much from our primary focus of the basics.

This also forces teachers to comply with policies which they might not agree with such as calling a biological male or female by their chosen pronouns. I believe there are two genders and to affirm to a child that they can choose their gender goes against my beliefs as well as my rights. I have seen the detrimental effects of these policies. When we place so much emphasis on these policies it takes away from education and it's a small percentage of the student population that also affects all the other students. School Board policies should be in the best interest of all students, not just a very small percentage.

Also, these policies are made by the school board, so the staff must comply or risk losing their jobs. This is one reason I am running for school board because we need to put policies in place that provide an excellent environment for both our students and teachers. These policies are taking away the focus from education.

What are your top 3-5 issues and why?

There is so much work to do, but my main issues are:

First, help students succeed academically. Many students are not performing at their grade level. These are foundational skills that kids need. Governor Youngkin passed the Literacy Act which would require students to be able to read by the third grade. We need to provide various tools to also help schools with ELL students as well as special needs students such as hiring more special education teachers and staff.

Second is school safety. One of the main priorities is that students need to be safe, and parents need to know that their kids are safe when they are at school. We need School Resource Officers at every school and not build private co-ed bathrooms that can be locked from inside. We need better oversight over our children, and we need to put policies in place that help teachers manage their classrooms. Right now, for example, there is no accountability for misdemeanors based on current policies.

The third issue is to protect parental rights. Lack of transparency has caused the community to lose confidence in schools. Going back to Policy 8040, parents are not informed if their child is transitioning. Children are minors and the school needs to inform parents about what is going on. We need to make sure our policies align with our constitutional rights.

The fourth issue is to invest in our teachers. As a substitute teacher in various schools, I have witnessed so many teachers who are close to burning out because they have so much on their plates. Teachers work so hard, and they are in this profession because they love children. They shouldn't be burdened with extra administrative tasks, DEI training and not being supported by disciplinary policies.

Lastly, I would like to see better nutritious meals in our schools. Good nutrition is very important for academic performance as well as behavior.

What changes would you like to see with the school board?

Bold steps must be taken to restore excellence in our education. For that reason, we need School Board policies in place as well as the proper allocation of the 2023-2024 school budget of \$1.6 billion. I would like to see in more detail how to allocate monies and invest in education rather than spending \$11 million on co-ed bathrooms.

What is the one-word people who know you best would use to describe you?

Dedicated. I am a strong leader and a hard worker. I am in it to win it; to make our schools a better educational environment for everyone, students, teachers and parents.