



Howard County | Maryland

health, safety and equity in education

BOE General Election Candidate School Hours Questionnaire

Please return to: sslhoco@gmail.com

Candidate Name: Jacky McCoy

1. Based on the research that later middle and high school start times increase graduation rates and decrease absenteeism, with disadvantaged students benefiting the most from age-appropriate school hours, do you agree that HCPSS high schools should start at 8:30 am or later?

Yes, the research is clear, providing high school start times at 8:30 AM will support adolescent sleep patterns and help improve students' academic performance.

2. Based on the proposed start times presented by DSG at the July 14, 2022 BOE meeting, if high schools are kept as the first tier, elementary schools would have to start at 9:45am in order for high schools to start at the desired 8:30am. As determined during the shift in start times during the pandemic, 9:45 am is too late for elementary school kids to begin their day. Do you agree with the BOE that DSG should revisit their analysis with elementary school starting school as the first tier at 8am?

Yes, I agree with the BOE that DSG should revisit their analysis with elementary school starting school at the first tier of 8 AM. Other school systems are coming to the same conclusion.

3. When DSG comes back to the BOE in November/December with the additional analysis switching tier 1 and tier 3, elementary starting in tier 1 and high school starting in tier 3, would you be open to this scenario? Why or why not?

I would not recommend opening high school at tier 3, it would be more effective to have high schools switch to tier 2 and middle school at the 3rd tier.. Anne Arundel County has taken that route for the 2022 - 2023 school year.

4. Is there anything else you would like your constituents and future voters to know about your position on safe, healthy, and age-appropriate school hours?

I support healthy school start times and look forward to the change for the 2023 - 2024 school year. As a member of the Board of Education, I will advocate for the best scenario of school start times. There is a good opportunity to learn from Anne Arundel County's experience with the new school hours during the 2022 - 2023 school year. I hope HCPSS will benefit from what is learned from the AACPS experience this year.