Ilya Shapiro

1) Knowing what we do today about the COVID-19 pandemic, should Falls Church City schools have returned to in-person learning sooner?

YES. In-person learning is better for kids' education, and we should provide it except in extreme circumstances.

2) Do you support the mandate that all students wear masks at school for the Fall semester?

??? Gov. Northam is requiring masks in all K-12 institutions, so this is out of the school board's hands.

3) Should transgender students be allowed to use the bathroom or lockers rooms of the gender with which they identify?

??? The Fourth Circuit has ruled in the affirmative – and FCCPS joined an amicus brief arguing for that decision – so this is out of the School Board's hands.

4) Should the Board increase educational opportunities, including career and technical, for non-IB diploma high school students?

YES. We can a better job of supporting kids "in the middle" – not gifted, not special needs.

5) Do you support school faculty entering into collective bargaining agreements with the City

??? This is a decision for each faculty member. I'm not going to choose sides or insist on a particular type of representation or method of negotiation.

6) Should there be school resource officers in Falls Church City schools?

??? This is a decision best made in the context of regular security assessments, so I can't answer unequivocally and unconditionally.

7) Should Falls Church City curriculum include information on systemic racism in the United States?

YES. Virginia's and America's history are pockmarked by racism, which should be part of a comprehensive history curriculum, as should the steps our country has taken to better itself.

8) Should all FCCPS teachers and administrators take annual diversity, equity, and inclusion training?

??? Faculty and staff must treat everyone with equal respect; if that's what this means, I support it. But DEI is so broad that it's impossible to answer this question without any specifics.

9) Should Falls Church City school curriculum include climate change, resiliency, and environmental justice?

NO. These are curricular details that are hard to answer collectively and without specifics. Our primary focus must be to give everyone a chance for an excellent education, but I would stay away from political viewpoints, whether I agree with them or not.

10) Once the COVID-19 vaccine has full FDA approval, should it be mandated for all eligible students in order to attend school in-person?

NO. Virginia law requires public school students to receive various immunization; I would wait on state health authorities to make this call rather than going it alone.