

## Lori Silverman

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

**YES.** I don't plan to focus my campaign on the past, hindsight is 20/20, and I want to look forward in terms of how we live with this virus which won't be going away anytime soon. The more we've learned about the virus, and what we know today, the more convinced I am that our schools could have opened, in some capacity with at least a hybrid approach, in August 2020 when our case positive numbers were actually lower than they are today when we're open full time. Study after study has shown that schools are not the source of the spread. In fact, Dr. Noonan stated there was ZERO in-classroom spread of the virus last year. A very critical point: we would have needed our teachers and staff to be on board with this plan in order for this to work. This would have involved much more communication and collaboration during the summer of 2020, and on a continuous basis, to determine what their needs were in order to feel safe. Additionally, they would have needed to be given grace if learning standards weren't met because of the focus on social and emotional needs. Finally, the teachers and staff would have needed an authentic voice during the 2020 summer to ensure there was real buy-in of the re-opening plans.

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

**YES.** No mandate should be required for outdoors unless students are in a large crowd of people.

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

**YES.**

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

**YES.** I strongly support union-based apprenticeship programs (different from the programs promoted during the last presidential administration).

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

**YES.** This is one of the most important issues to me. I'm not just a yes vote, but I will work my hardest to ensure there are at least 3 other yes votes with me.

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

**NO.**

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

**YES.**

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

**YES.**

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

**YES.**

**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?**

**YES.** My answer is yes if the Center for Disease Control and/or the American Association of Pediatrics recommends mandating this, with medical exemptions and state-authorized religious exemptions. I'm neither a scientist nor a doctor, and therefore follow the experts in this area. I do know that my children will be getting their shots as soon as they possibly can, and I will highly encourage others to do so as well.