

## Tate Gould

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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?

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I respectfully decline to answer this question, since stating an opinion on this complicated and charged issue, months after what we know now, does not seem helpful for moving forward. As we continue to navigate the current pandemic, I believe that we should weigh the latest scientific evidence, the public health and safety data or guidance, input from the FCCPS community, and the overall well-being of students, parents and teachers/staff in making such decisions.

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

**YES.** I support wearing masks for all students in the Fall based on current CDC guidance and the latest research on the effectiveness of masks. School districts across the country have been implementing similar policies to help ensure schools remain open. I also support lifting any mask mandate as soon as conditions allow. It should not be a permanent feature of schooling.

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

**YES.** Our community has always historically been supportive, inclusive, and welcoming to all people. This includes all of our students. There should be careful and deliberate discussion for how the policy is written and crafted to ensure acceptance and adoption in our community.

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

**YES.** The IB Diploma Curriculum has been adopted as a system and community commitment for FCCPS. We are unique given the full adoption of the IB curriculum, from preschool through high school. This curriculum provides a foundational experience for all students, including those students who choose not to pursue the IB diploma option (more than 70%). Therefore we should also continue to focus on educational opportunities for all of our students, regardless of the IB diploma track.

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

**YES.** The staff and teachers within FCCPS should have the ability to enter into an agreement with the City for collective bargaining. Based on my experience working with districts across the country, I have observed that one of the main factors for success is a partnership approach between the local education association representatives and school board. Both sides must commit to partnership and ongoing communication, making the effort to listen and understand the issues from each perspective. Having experience with collective bargaining agreements, as well as my experience as a former teacher, I believe these unique perspectives can benefit both the City and the bargaining unit to achieve the best possible outcomes for our teachers and staff, our community, and most importantly, our students.

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

**NO.** I fully support the role of resource officers in schools if there is sufficient need. I have taught in schools where school resource officers were necessary and successfully integrated with the students and staff in a positive, supportive role. At this time, in Falls Church City, I believe our existing safety protocols are appropriate for our needs and our finite resources can be better allocated to other services and staff needs.

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

**YES.** Our school curriculum should be balanced to include both the strengths and shortcomings of our country's history. It should incorporate the voices of those who have been historically suppressed and marginalized, and address the shameful and ongoing ways systemic racism persists. As with any school curriculum, educators need training and support to meaningfully implement the curriculum. Family and student feedback should be considered and incorporated as appropriate as we learn more about what works and what doesn't work in our community.

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

**YES.** As with any student-facing curriculum, professional-facing curriculum should be of high quality, balanced, implemented well, and incorporate feedback on an ongoing basis. As a former teacher, I would also advocate for a process in which teachers and staff are part of the selection process for the training to ensure buy-in. DEI training is not a complete solution; it is only one part of this effort to help understand and educate.

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

**YES.** Science curriculum should always incorporate the latest scientific findings.

**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.** There is a long history in our country of requiring vaccines for school attendance with allowance for religious objections. It is common sense to follow this long standing practice that has been upheld by the courts on many occasions.