



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 6, 2023**

**Contact:**  
**Thomas Nash, Press Secretary**  
[thomas@mcelveenforschoolboard.com](mailto:thomas@mcelveenforschoolboard.com)



**Ryan McElveen Launches Campaign for Fairfax County School Board At-large**  
*Platform Calls for Bringing Joy Back to Education*

McLEAN, Va. – Today, Ryan McElveen, who represented all Fairfax County residents as an at-large School Board member for eight years from 2012-2019, launched his campaign for re-election to that position.

“The pandemic reinforced long-standing disparities and Fairfax County’s tale of two systems,” Ryan said in a statement announcing his candidacy. “From deepening concerns about students left behind academically to declining mental health among all students, the challenges our community must overcome are far more daunting than ever before. At a time when public education is under attack by politicians, I want to work toward a better tomorrow that embraces gun violence prevention, universal pre-kindergarten, free and healthy meals for every student, and solar panels on every school.

“I see in the eyes of my daughters and all of our students that our best days are ahead of us. As a county, we need to reset, reorient our priorities, and rebuild. I am ready to take on that challenge and work with our community to bring the joy back to education.”

Ryan believes we need experienced, thoughtful, empathetic, and forward-looking servant leadership on the School Board. To create a community that better serves all residents, Ryan will work to:

- Provide high-quality mental health resources that meet the needs of our students and staff

- Competitively compensate and retain high-quality educators who know our students by name and by need
- Build and maintain educational environments and facilities that are safe, inclusive, healthy, sustainable, and inspire learning
- Offer a 21st century curriculum, academies, and high-quality music, theater, arts, and world language programs in every school to prepare students to thrive in the jobs of the future
- Implement universal high-quality pre-K programs that prepare students to enter kindergarten ready to learn

During his eight years on the School Board, Ryan worked with parents, students, employee organizations, and educators to keep the school system the best in the nation, while also restoring competitive teacher compensation and pushing important reforms in the areas of mental health supports, student discipline, later high school start times and full-day Mondays, and school safety and security. He has also promoted transparency and accountability through the hiring of both a system ombudsman and auditor general.

Additionally, he led the School Board in championing increased state legislative advocacy, improved public engagement, curriculum internationalization, more sustainable infrastructure, LGBTQ protections, gun violence prevention, healthier food options, and excused absences for civic engagement – the first policy of its kind in the country.

After leaving the School Board in 2020, Ryan founded the Global Leaders of Fairfax County program, which prepares county high school seniors to be global citizens and change agents in their community and the world. He also serves as advocacy chair of the Churchill Road Elementary School PTA and co-troop leader of Girl Scout Troop 50292.

Ryan is associate director of The Brookings Institution's John L. Thornton China Center, where he is a senior administrator, manages the U.S.-China Leaders Forum and other track II dialogues, and conducts research on Chinese politics and society and U.S. foreign policy.

Born and raised in the Vienna-Tysons Corner area, Ryan graduated from George C. Marshall High School. He holds a B.A. in Anthropology and East Asian Studies from the University of Virginia and a Master's degree of International Affairs in human rights from Columbia University. He lives with his wife, Xuan, and daughters, Sierra (6) and Isla (1), in McLean.

For more information or to sign up for email updates, please visit [www.mcelveenforschoolboard.com](http://www.mcelveenforschoolboard.com). To arrange an interview, contact the campaign at [thomas@mcelveenforschoolboard.com](mailto:thomas@mcelveenforschoolboard.com).

###