KATHY CATER

BOARD OF EDUCATION • DISTRICT 6

Dear Neighbor,

For more than 35 years, Worcester County has been my home. My husband and I raised our two sons here, both of whom attended Worcester County Public Schools and graduated from Stephen Decatur High School. We have lived in Bishopville for the past 14 years, and our family's connection to our local schools remains as strong as ever.

For 30 years, I had the privilege of working in public education. I began my career as a classroom teacher and eventually became a school administrator, spending the final 16 years of my career as Assistant Principal at Stephen Decatur High School.

When I retired in 2021, I left behind the daily responsibilities of running a school, but I certainly didn't leave behind my concern for our students, our teachers, and the future of public education.

That continuing commitment is what led me to become a candidate for the Worcester County Board of Education, District 6.

Throughout my career, I learned that a successful school involves much more than textbooks, test scores, and classroom instruction. It takes dedicated teachers, supportive families, responsible leadership, and a genuine commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed.

As an assistant principal, I worked directly with students, parents, teachers, and staff every day. My responsibilities included student discipline, staff supervision, academic scheduling, special education services, instructional resources, professional development, and the countless operational decisions necessary to keep a school running effectively.

I worked with students facing difficult personal circumstances, parents concerned about their children's education, and teachers who needed additional resources and support. Some situations were simple. Others required difficult decisions, patience, and an understanding that every student and every family has unique circumstances

Those experiences taught me something I have never forgotten: **Decisions affecting our schools should always begin with what is best for our students.**

Since beginning my campaign, I have had the opportunity to visit residents throughout District 6. Many of the doors I've knocked on have been answered by former students, parents of students, and neighbors willing to share their thoughts and concerns.

These conversations have reminded me just how special our community is and how important our public schools are to the families who live here.

During these visits, I've shared the educational priorities that guide my candidacy. I believe we must retain our highly qualified teachers and staff by providing appropriate, competitive salaries. I support keeping classroom sizes small enough for students to receive the attention they need to succeed academically. Our children deserve schools that are safe, not only physically, but emotionally as well.

I believe instruction should be engaging, meaningful, and responsive to the needs of ALL students, regardless of their individual challenges or abilities.

And above all, **I believe students must remain at the center of every decision made by our Board of Education.**

I also believe our schools need adequate funding to meet their responsibilities. If elected, I intend to advocate for fully funded school budgets, adherence to applicable policies and regulations, and compliance with educational requirements that protect every student's access to a free and appropriate public education.

As a Board member, I would consider it my responsibility to listen carefully to the people I represent, understand their concerns, and work toward thoughtful resolutions.

I believe personal political agendas have no place in decisions about our children's education. The responsibility of the Board of Education is to serve our students, our schools, and the broader community.

My commitment to our community did not end when I retired. Since 2021, I have been an active member of the Ocean City Berlin Optimist Club, serving as Scholarship Chairman and helping oversee the distribution of hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to graduating seniors.

Education remains an important part of my family life as well. My son is the Theatre Teacher at Stephen Decatur High School, my daughter in law works in special education as a Behavior Interventionist, and one of my granddaughters attends Buckingham Elementary School.

So, when I think about the future of Worcester County Public Schools, I think about it not only as a retired educator and administrator, but also as a parent, grandmother, and longtime resident who cares deeply about our community.

I have spent my professional life working inside our schools, understanding their challenges, supporting their teachers, and helping their students succeed.

If given the opportunity to serve on the Board of Education, I would bring that experience, along with a willingness to listen, ask thoughtful questions, and carefully consider how decisions affect students, families, teachers, and taxpayers.

On **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**, Worcester County residents will have the opportunity to elect their District 6 representative to the Board of Education. I encourage you to learn about the candidates, ask questions, and participate in this important local election.

Thank you for taking a few moments to read my letter, and thank you for caring about our schools and the future of Worcester County.

Warmest regards,

Kathy Cater

Kathy Cater
Candidate for Worcester County Board of Education, District 6

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Authorized by Citizens for Kathy Cater and Treasurer Tara Nunan

Strong Communities. Strong Schools. Bright Futures.