

GOOD EVENING MY NAME IS ARUNA METTLER. I CAME TO AMERICA IN 1970 FROM INDIA. I HAVE LIVED IN WASHINGTON D.C., VIRGINIA, ROCHESTER, AND SINCE 1978 IN NJ. I CAME TO THIS COUNTRY WITH AN IMPRESSION THAT AMERICA HAS THE BEST EDUCATION AND THEREFORE A PROMISING FUTURE FOR MY CHILDREN. I HAVE TWO CHILDREN. MY SON, SIDDHARTHA WORKS FOR ROBERT WOOD. CURRENTLY WORKING ON HIS DEGREE FOR NURSE PRACTITIONER. MY DAUGHTER DEVIYANI, HAS AN MBA, & WORKS FOR MERC PHARMASUTICAL AND IS THE YOUNGEST HOSPITAL REP IN NJ. MY CHILDREN GRADUATED FROM FRANKLIN HIGH SCHOOL. I WAS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER FROM 1984 TO 1985 AND AGAIN SINCE 2003 TO PRESENT.

MY HATS OFF TO TEACHERS OF FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP. THEY ARE THE MOST DEDICATED, COMPASSIONATE, AND GIFTED PEOPLE WHO ARE THE BACKBONE OF OUR COMMUNITY. MANY CHILDREN WOULD NOT SURVIVE THE CHALLENGES TODAY IF IT WASN'T FOR THE TEACHERS, COUNSELLORS, AND PARA PROFESSIONALS. HUMAN FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS ARE UNIVERSAL AND HOPES AND DREAMS OF ALL PARENTS ARE SIMILAR FOR OUR CHILDREN. WE WANT OUR CHILDREN TO EXCEL AND SHINE AS THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN THE UNIVERSE. WHY DID I CHOOSE TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR BOE? SIMPLY BECAUSE I LOVE CHILDREN AND care what happens to them. HAVING ON HANDS CLASSROOM EXPRENCIE HAS BEEN AN EYE OPENER TO THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FRANKLIN SCHOOLS ARE FACING.

THE PROBLEMS ARE SEVERAL. Here is one of many: NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND THE FEDERAL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY ACT, DESCRIBES A WORTHY GOAL FOR OUR NATION. ALAS!, THE LEGISLATION WILL EXACERBATE , NOT SOLVE , THE REAL PROBLEMS THAT MAY CAUSE MANY CHILDREN TO BE LEFT BEHIND. WHAT WOULD REALLY HELP CHILDREN? THE FEDERAL LAW SHOULD BE TRANSFORMED THAT USES PUNISHMENT TO CONTROL SCHOOLS TO ONE THAT SUPPORTS THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS; FROM ONE THAT RELIES PRIMARY ON STANDARDIZED TEST TO ONE THAT RELIES ON HIGH -QUALITY ASSESSMENT. IF ELECTED, I WILL LISTEN TO EDUCATORS & PARENTS. I WILL APPROACH CONGRESS TO MAKE SURE THAT SCHOOLS ARE FUNDED APPROPIRATELY AND NOT DISTRIBUTED TO A FEW STUDENTS. I WOULD LIKE TO DEMAND ACCOUNABITY FROM THE SYSTEM. WHICH INCLUDES SPENDING PATTERNS OF THE SCHOOL BUDGET, THE FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINES, VOILENCE, AND BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION OF STUDENTS. I HOPE, I CAN EARN YOUR TRUST AND COUNT ON YOUR VOTE ON APRIL 18, 2006. THANK YOU.