

Candidate Background Information

Please share the small cards with your friends and neighbors.

Aruna Mettler

Mission Statement: To make a difference and create an environment of educational achievement and scholastic excellence. To improve and empower students and to strengthen the system to provide individual testing for students with special needs.

My name is Aruna D. **Mettler** and I'm running for the Franklin Township Board of Education and I'm asking for your vote this April 18th

To me education is like a thread of life which connects all species similar to the rungs of a double-helix as it binds the gene code. Yet, the DNA of each individual is uniquely composed despite the bond that holds it together. Culture, religion, race, and sex are purely incidental. For me freedom of expression that can be felt deeply is the fore bearer of creativity. Intelligence which is unblemished by labels, isms, ethnicity, and gender.

Education is a mirror of individual achievement yet it reflects back as complex, confusing, painful, angry, elated, and healing. On a larger scale, education also reflects the competence and weaknesses of the system that governs it. As I embody parts of that system as a substitute teacher and a parent whose two children graduated from Franklin High, ***I am the candidate that the Board of Education (BOE) needs today.*** Why? Here is my humble resume which includes wisdom through life experiences.

I was born and raised in India and received a B.A. in Liberal Arts from Delhi University, India. I've continued my education in the United States receiving a B.A. in Social Science/History. My work experiences as well as accomplishments in various art venues have continued to strengthen my life experience portfolio and give me additional tools with which to understand our educational challenges.

I know that I will be an asset to the Board of Education and I'm asking for your support on ***April 18th***. My life experiences as well as my ***current position as a substitute teacher, here in Franklin Township,*** have given me a unique insight into the needs of a multi-cultural environment.

If elected, I will work hard to transfer my ideas of a dynamic, creative ever-evolving educational experience into reality. ***Working together, we can achieve academic excellence.***

Nancy LaCorte

Hi! My name is Nancy **LaCorte** and I'm running for the Franklin Township Board of Education and ***I'm asking for your vote on April 18th.***

I grew up in the Middlebush section of Franklin Township, graduated from Franklin High School and my three children also graduated from Franklin High School.

Why am I running? Its simple – accountability. I think as parents we should be accountable for and to our children. I also believe educators, administrators and those on the **Board of Education** should also be held accountable for their actions. Who should they be accountable to?

- ***The school system for which they serve***
- ***The taxpayers and community who support the school system***
- ***The parents who should be their ally***
- ***And most importantly, to the children***

I ask that you vote for me because I believe in accountability, honesty and full disclosure. And, I believe that this School Board has been less than honest with us and, as an example, this BOE:

- **Has accepted test scores that are mediocre and we get nothing but excuses why our students perform poorly.**
- **Has spent millions of taxpayer dollars and refuses to admit its continuing failures—the new High School's ongoing shortcomings are an example.**
- **Has not been forthcoming about the extent of the student behavior issue and now Franklin Township schools are in the newspapers with violent student outbursts and with police called to back-up the security forces.**

I care about what happens to Franklin Township schools and how the quality of the educational process impacts all of us. **If elected on April 18th, I will work hard for the students and taxpayers of Franklin Township** and deliver on my promises.

Gene Unger

Hi! My name is Eugene (Gene) **Unger**, former councilman, and I'm running for the Franklin Township Board of Education. ***I'm asking for your vote on April 18th.*** I currently serve on the Franklin Township Library Board, have prior school board experience, and am a United States Air Force veteran and retired from AT&T after 30 years of service. I'm running because I believe I can make a difference.

I recognize that public school education has and will continue to be the backbone of our educational system in the United States. And, there is no reason why the Franklin Township school system cannot produce "World Class" graduates. It's not just a matter of buildings and the amount of money spent that's important, it's a matter of setting standards of excellence that exceed the state and national norms and ensuring we have the tools and motivation necessary to achieve these results.

Here in Franklin Township, we have an opportunity to break the mold. Boldly go where we've never gone before. We must focus the many talents and resources within our town to help our educators achieve these goals. Business leaders, retired professionals, our Public Library organization and township officials should all become part of a renewed goal of "World Class" education. We should not be afraid of opening our doors to whoever can help us achieve excellence. **And, we should not be afraid to find out what other school districts are doing to improve scholastic performance while controlling expenses.**

I am asking for your vote on April 18th because this BOE has been less than honest with us and has;

- **Not done enough to address the issues that are contributing to low test scores particularly in the Middle and High Schools.**
- **Done little to improve overall efficiency and focus more of our tax dollars on the classroom and less on administration.**
- **Spent millions of dollars and refuses to admit its continuing failures – the new High School with its many problems is an example.**
- **Not done enough to let parents and township officials know the extent of violent behavior that is occurring in our Middle and High Schools.**

The current **Board of Education has failed** our students and has failed our community.

If elected on April 18th, I will work hard for the parents, the students and the taxpayers of Franklin and help **move our schools toward academic excellence.**