

## **Statement from Matt Schneider**

### **Candidate for Jersey City Board of Education**

It has come to my attention that my name has been included on a list of state-wide recommendations for school board candidates offered by an obscure group calling themselves the "New Jersey Project." This group's website promotes values and positions that I do not support. I want to make it unequivocally clear that I was added to their list without my knowledge or authorization, as is clearly stated on the recommendations page. I firmly disavow any association with the New Jersey Project or its values.

As a candidate for the Jersey City Board of Education, I fully support the NJ-mandated curriculum, which includes comprehensive education that reflects the diversity of our students and their needs. I stand in unwavering support of the LGBTQIA+ community, and I am committed to ensuring that every student has access to a safe, inclusive learning environment where they can thrive without fear of discrimination or harm.

As an owner of a mental health counseling practice in the Jersey City community, I know firsthand the critical importance of providing support to students of all backgrounds. A student's well-being is fundamental to their success, and it is our responsibility to ensure they have access to the resources and support they need to grow mentally, emotionally, and academically. Safe spaces in our schools, particularly for queer students, are essential for fostering healthy development and resilience.

I also want to make it absolutely clear that I will never support the banning of books or the suppression of ideas. Schools are places of learning and growth, and our students deserve access to a broad range of perspectives that challenge them, foster critical thinking, and help them grow into well-rounded individuals.

My focus is, and always will be, on building stronger schools that serve all students and ensuring that every child receives the quality education they deserve.

Thank you for your continued support. I am happy to answer any specific questions. Please email me at [matt@forstrongerschools.com](mailto:matt@forstrongerschools.com).

Sincerely,  
Matt Schneider  
Candidate for Jersey City Board of Education