Dear Candidate,

We are writing to invite you to complete the following questionnaire of the Washington Teachers' Union and Washington Metro Labor Council's Committees on Political Education (COPE).

Please send the completed questionnaire by **7:00PM August 26th** to **lfuchs@wtulocal6.net**
Please Save the Date for our candidate forum via Zoom on Thursday, September 8th at 7PM. More details will be forthcoming.

Respectfully,
Laura Fuchs, Chair of the WTU Committee on Political Education (COPE)

cc: Jacqueline Pogue Lyons, President, Washington Teachers' Union,
Robert Hollingsworth, Executive Director, AFSCME District Council 20
Yahnae Barner – Vice President of 1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East
Ricarra Jones, Political Organizer for DC Region, SEIU 1199
Ed Smith**,** Executive Director, DC Nurses Association (DCNA)
Richard Jackson, President, Council of School Officers (CSO)
John Gibson, President, Teamsters Local 639
Wayne Settles, Vice President, Teamsters Local 639

Candidate Information:

Name: _____ Position Sought: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Can you attend the candidate forum on September 8th at 7PM via Zoom? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Important Note on completion of the questionnaire: The best way to complete this questionnaire is to fill it out in Microsoft Word and type your responses into the boxes below the question (they will expand as you go) and then save it as a PDF. ***Your responses, in their entirety will be published on the WTU and Washington Metro Labor Council's websites and we reserve the right to use responses to any answer in their entirety. Any statement made in this questionnaire that is later contradicted will cause the WTU to revisit any endorsement offered and may result in the rescinding of our endorsement.***

Please call or text WTU COPE Chair Laura Fuchs at **(**202) 683-7981 if you have any questions or concerns.

In your own words…

Introduce yourself to our members including what ways you have been of service to public education prior to your becoming a candidate in this election. *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

What is your vision for public education in the District of Columbia?
How will you utilize your position on the State Board of Education to help realize this vision? *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

What is the top challenge facing public education in the District of Columbia, and if elected what would you hope would be key accomplishments of the board during your years of service? *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

If we endorse you and support your election, how will you work with us in the future?
(limit to 500 characters)

Insert answer here in bold

Are you using the public financing option? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Will you accept political action funds from any group? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Would you accept endorsement from Democrats for Education Reform or any of its affiliated organizations? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Will you disavow independent expenditures from "education reform" groups like DFER or groups that seek to privatize education? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Keeping Schools Safe during the COVID-19 pandemic

Health and safety concerns around the pandemic are ongoing. Do you believe that DCPS should negotiate health and safety measures with the WTU regarding current and future public health emergencies? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What role will you play as an SBOE member in increasing COVID safety and what measures would you like to see implemented by DCPS?

Insert answer here in bold

Education Governance

Do you believe our current education system of Mayoral Control of OSSE and DCPS and a separate Charter Accountability system can achieve equity? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Why or why not?

Insert answer here in bold

Should the role and authority of the DC State Board of Education expand to oversee OSSE instead of the mayor? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

If so, how should authority be expanded? If not, why not? *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

Should Charter LEAs be held to the same standards as DC Public Schools? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

If yes, explain how the State Board of Education can support requiring charter schools to meet the same requirements as traditional public schools, particularly as they relate to access for all students (i.e., Special Education, English Language Learners)?

Insert answer here in bold

Is OSSE doing enough to track and report on student mobility in DC? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

How can this data be improved and what will you do with this data?

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that police and private security have a role in schools (i.e., RSOs and private security)? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

If so, explain what role they should have. If not, why not?

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that the State Board of Education should solicit and hear testimony from education stakeholders regarding issues like grade inflation, high teacher turnover, and lack of oversight of Special Education by OSSE? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What will you do to increase stakeholder involvement, especially that of parents and students?

Insert answer here in bold

Specifically, how would you support the WTU's involvement in the policy-making process?

Insert answer here in bold

Should educators in the public charter sector have the right to organize and form a Union? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Do you believe the city should establish a unified, city-wide educational plan that ensures cooperation and planning across sectors? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Describe what the process should look like.

Insert answer here in bold

Do you support a moratorium on Charter School openings and expansions? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Should all LEAs be subject to the same transparency and reporting requirements including school level budgets? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Should all LEAs be Subject to FOIA? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Should LEAs be funded based on the quarterly count of students enrolled in their schools or on a singular annual count day? (**bold and underline** one)

Singular / Quarterly / Other.

Explain your reasoning

Insert answer here in bold

Many DC Public Schools receive an inflow of students throughout the school year. Do you support providing additional resources for these schools as they receive students? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

DCPS has lost Head Start funding due to not meeting the federal standards. Do you believe that DCPS and other LEAs should apply for, qualify and use existing and future federal grants and programs? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What will you do to ensure that our LEAs are using and fulfilling the terms of federal grants (Early Childhood in particular) equitably across our District?

Insert answer here in bold

In order to ensure accountability for our schools, will you support higher protections and additional oversight for whistleblowers who are then subject to retaliation? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

How would you handle whistleblower complaints if they are brought to you publicly or privately?

Insert answer here in bold

Do you support an update to the 2010 Local Hatch Act and the 2007 PERRA that allows individuals employed by DC Public Schools to run for *all* public offices, including the State Board of Education? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Educator Turnover

Is educator turnover a problem that the District needs to proactively address? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

If so, what will you do to address it? If not, why not? *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

Would you actively advocate for our unions to have the ability to negotiate the terms of its evaluation system? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What effect do you believe the IMPACT evaluation system has had on educator turnover and how will you actively advocate for educators to have a voice on a new evaluation system? *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

Do you agree that all teachers at publicly funded schools should be certified in the areas of content they are hired to teach? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What will you do to ensure that this is implemented and that certification numbers are reported for all LEAs? *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that OSSE is doing a good job at communicating certification requirements and deadlines to educators to ensure they are certified? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

How will you use your role on the DC SBOE to oversee OSSE on licensure?

Insert answer here in bold

State Accountability Plan

Do you support the current statewide accountability plan currently being enacted by OSSE in public education? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Explain your reasoning why:

Insert answer here in bold

ESSA has allowed a lot more flexibility for states when it comes to state testing. Do you believe that our current statewide accountability plan and OSSE Report Card place too much emphasis on standardized test scores? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What changes (if any) would you suggest we make when it comes to the forms, time spent and emphasis on testing?

Insert answer here in bold

The PARCC Consortium of states has dropped into the single digits, with at least two more making plans to exit in the next few years. Do you believe that PARCC exams should continue to be used? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What do you suggest the District do moving forward in regards to PARCC?

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that the OSSE Report Card adequately demonstrates how Students with Disabilities are being served by our schools and school system and encourages LEAs to engage in ethical compliance with IDEA and IEPs? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Explain why or why not.

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe 1 STAR schools are getting enough support from OSSE? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Explain your reasoning:

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe 1-STAR schools should be closed and/or turned over to a charter school, if after 3 years they remain a 1-STAR school? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Explain your reasoning:

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that the OSSE School Report Card should report on the percentage of certified teachers in each school (including charter LEA's who are currently exempted from reporting this)? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Please explain. *(limit to 1000 characters)*

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that the OSSE School Report Card measures what is essential to ensuring that schools are serving their students? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Explain your reasoning and how that information should be collected and reported.

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that the OSSE School Report Card should have a STAR rating? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Explain your reasoning.

Insert answer here in bold

Do you believe that OSSE and the SBOE did enough to engage all stakeholders when creating the School Report Card? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

If elected, what would you do to further engage stakeholders on this issue?

Insert answer here in bold

What additional points of advocacy would you engage in beyond your policy role on the school board to ensure that the goals of the accountability system met?

Insert answer here in bold

Academic Standards & High School Graduation Requirements

Do the current academic standards need to be updated? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What changes, if any, do you think are necessary for the current academic standards?

Insert answer here in bold

Do the current graduation requirements need to be updated? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

What changes, if any, do you think are necessary for the graduation requirements?

Insert answer here in bold

Do you support the concept of a waiver for changing the definition of the credit hour (which currently is defined as 120 hours of in-class time)? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Please explain your reasoning.

Insert answer here in bold

Do you support the option for students to be able to take an assessment (or series of assessments) to earn high school credit without taking the course (otherwise known as a "test out" option)? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

If so, for what courses should that be made available and how would it be created and enforced?

Insert answer here in bold

From SEIU 1199

Many for-profit Community Based Organizations operate on a fee-for-service model, which means they are unable to serve students with expired medicaid, undocumented students, or students with no/private insurance. Do you pledge to support DC Government employed school-based mental health workers (DCPS or DBH) who are able to serve ALL students regardless of coverage or documentation status? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Please explain your reasoning.

Insert answer here in bold

Many for-profit Community Based Organizations employ recent graduates to provide school-based mental health services in our schools. This means many of the employed mental health workers have no prior clinical experience, and turnover is high. Do you pledge to require any mental health professional providing clinical services in a school to have, at minimum, an independent clinical license of their respective discipline? (**bold and underline** one)

Yes / No

Please explain your reasoning.

Insert answer here in bold