

1. What programs would you advocate for to prepare students in a varied range of careers?

Here are some of the programs we would like our students to be prepared on by our schools:

- Internships
- Partnerships with community based organizations, trade schools, local business and labor unions.
- 3D printing
- Virtual (Metaverse) Technologies
- Coding

2. What is your plan for improving access to mental health services?

Teaneck Public Schools mental health initiative began in 2019 with funding from the School Climate Transformation Grant. The initiative provides students and families access to licensed mental health care professionals. Elementary and middle school students, their parents, and family members have the ability to receive these services at no cost. Furthermore, no insurance is necessary to take advantage of these services

We would propose that these services continue to be accessible to all students and their families. In order to improve these services it is important to understand how funding affects mental health so the services remain after funding is gone. Finally it is important that we continue to address concerns early and continue to support the wellbeing of families.

3. What would you do to recruit and retain a diverse staff and pipeline to leadership?

1. Build relationships between districts and teacher preparation programs with diverse student enrollment.
2. To improve retention, we should design and implement high-quality professional learning opportunities for teachers. This includes collaborative work with other educators, support groups, and mentoring provided by trained and qualified colleagues, particularly other teachers of color.

4. How will you increase student engagement in civic responsibility?

- Mentoring
- Community based volunteer program

- Hands on projects
- We have a number of student clubs such as Activism Club, Black Youth Association, HEAL (a women's empowerment group), Jewish Club, Muslim Club, SOLA (Student Organization for Latino Americans) etc. that promote community engagement and advocacy for our young people.

5. How will you guarantee and expand universal early childhood education?

We have been fortunate to receive the NJ PPEA grant which allowed us to add ~180 full time, gen ed prek 3 and 4 seats to Teaneck residents. The program has proven successful both in terms of reviews from families, feedback from teachers and administrators, and the improved academic results we are seeing in the elementary schools from our first cohort of prek graduates.

6. How would you expand after school programs?

We recently introduced an intramural sports program at the middle schools. We have after school programs at our elementary and pre k buildings. Lastly, we would like to see them supported with enrichment opportunities in music, chess (ED!), STEM, etc.

7. How would you integrate updated educational standards (Amistad, LBGTQ+, Disability, Sex, etc.)?

Updated educational standards are integrated by aligning the standards for each grade level and implementing the rigorous standard-base curricula to ensure the diversity and inclusion of all cultural experiences are embedded into all academic programs. The New Jersey Student Learning Standards requires that the contribution of the Asian American (and) Pacific Islander, the African American history under the Amistad Law and the Holocaust Law, as well as the LBGTQ+ and Disabilities Law which is placed in the middle school and high school curriculum are instructed to all students base on age and grade appropriateness. Therefore, we should continue to adopt all inclusive materials so all students can develop the pride and experience that will create a strong desire to become lifelong learners.