

Teaneck Democratic Municipal Committee
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**2022 Candidates for Teaneck Board of Education
Questionnaire**

Name: Katie Geffert Schneider

Address: 1143 Julia Street

Years in Teaneck: 36 total: born and raised, and since 2010

Party Affiliation: Independent

- 1. What programs would you advocate for to prepare students in a varied range of careers?** Continue and expand Structured Learning Experiences such as job shadowing, volunteering, internships, community service. As per NJ education mandate, all students are required to complete 2.5 credits in Financial Literacy. Ensure students graduate with a base understanding of home economics: budgeting, self finances, loans, credit cards.
- 2. What is your plan for improving access to mental health services?** First and foremost, we must continue to erase the stigma associated with seeking mental health care. Ensure adequate support staffing in our schools who can provide a variety of resources for students and their families. Explore the possibility (if it has not been done so already) of partnering with local health care providers like Holy Name to provide support services.
- 3. What would you do to recruit and retain a diverse staff and pipeline to leadership?** Connect with local college education for placement upon graduation. Get creative with curriculum: allow space for creative teaching styles. Incorporate this approach with recruitment attraction process.
- 4. How will you increase student engagement in civic responsibility?** We have senior service which is a unique Teaneck experience. Promote the civic responsibility that can benefit from this by partnering with community leaders for a unique civic service opportunity. Volunteer hours as a graduation requirement can be amended to be a yearly requirement for all students to build into their schedule: I.e. tutoring, park/school clean up, murals.
- 5. How will you guarantee and expand universal early childhood education?** The addition of the Pre-K program has been an overall positive addition to our district. I cannot guarantee anything, but I will work with my fellow board members to strive to utilize our resources for the best for each child in Teaneck at all times.
- 6. How would you expand after school programs?** Expansion will be possible only if financial resources are there. First step is ensuring quality of our current after school programs before we add more.

7. **How would you integrate updated educational standards (Amistad, LGBTQ+, Disability, Sex, etc.)?** Integrating updated educational standards is the responsibility of our curriculum personnel, working in conjunction with our teachers and all educational leaders. As with all change, a close eye must be kept to make sure the execution is as best as can be, and that what is being introduced and taught is being understood in the proper context.