

## **Kathleen Tysse 2025 Candidate Statement for The Pulse**

I believe in Falls Church City Public Schools. I am grateful for the excellent education they provide, not just to my four children but to all the students throughout our community. As a former teacher and lifelong public education and literacy advocate, I understand what makes schools great, and I believe our schools truly deserve their reputation for excellence. But there is always more work to do. During a time of so much social and political turmoil, we're being forced to make countless difficult decisions about our values, our safety, and our priorities. As a member of our School Board, I make those decisions for our schools rooted in my leadership experience and strong relationships, with a balanced perspective on our community's many strengths and a commitment to continuous improvement.

I have been an FCCPS parent since 2013, and served as the elementary PTA President in 2019-2020, which inspired me to want to serve our schools on a deeper level as a School Board member. I have served on the Falls Church City School Board as a member since 2022 and as the Vice Chair since 2024. I am extremely proud of the work I have done alongside my colleagues on behalf of our school community over the past four years. Some of the of the school board work I am especially proud of includes: passing Paid Parental Leave, making FCCPS one of the first school districts in Virginia to provide this important benefit; passing our Collective Bargaining Agreement, giving FCCPS employees a union voice for the first time; and engaging in a very robust and thorough search process in order to welcome our new superintendent Dr. Terry Dade, who is just the right leader for FCCPS's next chapter.

That next chapter will bring with it many challenges, including growing yet less predictable enrollment, economic turmoil, continued political divisions, changes in technology including Artificial Intelligence, and plenty that we can't foresee. I am prepared to meet those obstacles with the knowledge I have gained from my leadership experience, building on the relationships I have built over the past thirteen years, and my lifetime of service to education and literacy.

As a proud member of the Falls Church City School Board, I strive to serve all of our students and families equitably. I am committed to respecting the professional expertise of our teachers and I work hard to lead with responsive and open communication. I would be honored to continue to serve our students, families, teachers, and staff for another four years.