



October 19, 2022

Dear Editor:

My name is Celeste Jordan, and I'm high school math teacher elected by my peers to serve as President of the Carroll County Education Association (CCEA).

Celeste M. Jordan  
PRESIDENT

Nathan J. Curtis  
UNISERV DIRECTOR

There are three things educators want Carroll County parents and community members to understand. First, CCEA believes Dr. Pat Dorsey, Tom Scanlan, and Dr. Amanda Jozkowski have the experience and temperament to best serve Carroll County students on the Board of Education. Pat has been a strong advocate for public schools and students for years in our community. Tom was a 30-plus-years educator and is a champion for public schools and students. Amanda has experience with policy implementation, data analysis, and will serve as a bridge to higher education.

Second, classroom educators made this call. Each candidate who completed a questionnaire was invited to be interviewed by classroom educators. Our Government Relations Committee recommended an endorsement based on the questionnaires and interviews. These endorsements were approved by our governing bodies. Every CCEA member could vote to support or reject. Overwhelmingly, our members agreed with the recommendations. Hundreds of educators participated in that process. It's one of the most democratic processes that can be found in any organization of a similar size.

Third, our parent organization MSEA contacted candidates for the Carroll County Board of Education whose supporters had generated imagery that included an apple along with the phrase, 'educators support' to imply our support for those candidates. This was a trademark violation and if trademarks are not enforced, they stop being binding. A member of the slate's candidates 'liked' the image on social media, implying support or endorsement of that image. In response to MSEA, one of the slate's candidates had the imagery pulled from social media and made it clear they won't be using anything similar in the course of the campaign. Consequently, there is no violation of our trademark to our knowledge.

Carroll County voters should be excited about the chance to vote for a wonderfully talented, experienced, and highly qualified group of candidates who will focus on putting CCPS' resources into our classrooms, hiring and retaining quality educators, and making sure that each CCPS classroom welcomes EVERY child. That's the job of every public school system—and that's why they got our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Celeste M. Jordan