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McELVEEN KICKS-OFF AT-LARGE CAMPAIGN

VIENNA, Va. – Ryan McElveen officially kicked-off his campaign for Fairfax County School Board at-large on Friday, Sept. 2, at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

More than 40 community members attended the back-to-school picnic, during which they heard speeches from McElveen and his supporters. Delegate Mark Keam (VA-35) noted that McElveen's unique experience among the field of candidates means he "has a better understanding of what's happening in the classroom today."

In a crowded at-large field, McElveen is the only candidate who is a graduate of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and the only candidate who is a former FCPS employee. If elected, McElveen would be the youngest person ever to hold countywide office in Fairfax County.

"I appreciate the fact that Ryan will bring diversity to the school board," Keam said. "Having a young person will add some diversity, and having someone who's traveled, studied and worked overseas teaching people about American values will enhance the work of our school board."

McElveen emphasized that he is running to ensure that Fairfax County provides an equitable educational experience for all students.

"As an at-large member, I will be representing students from Chantilly to Mount Vernon. Not all students have the support network I had, and I hope to speak for those students and teachers who are often overlooked. It is our diverse communities that make Fairfax County special. We have a great advantage here in Fairfax, because the world has come to us. As a school board member, my goal is to continue attracting the world to Fairfax by making FCPS the model for global education."

McElveen also highlighted the importance of maintaining Fairfax's trailblazing spirit.

"We have always been trailblazers in Virginia. In his 1779 bill for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge, Thomas Jefferson advocated providing both male and female children with elementary education. What he understood is that an educated citizenry can make better decisions. Today we need to build on Thomas Jefferson's lofty goal and teach our students not only what it means to be citizens, but also what it means to be *global* citizens."

The event featured supporters including State Senator Janet Howell (VA-32), Delegate Mark Keam, Delegate Ken Plum (VA-36), former Delegate Chuck Caputo (VA-67), Dranesville Supervisor John Foust, School Board Chairwoman Janie Strauss, School Board Vice-chair Ilryong Moon, candidate Pamela Danner (VA-34), and School Board candidates Pat Hynes and Ted Velkoff.

McElveen is a graduate of George C. Marshall High School. He holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Virginia and a Master's of International Affairs from Columbia University.

More information about Ryan can be found at www.ryanforschoolboard.com.

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