

Application for Appointment to the Open Seat for District 30 (A & B) on the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County

Mailed or hand-delivered applications must be received by noon on Friday, August 31, 2018, to be considered.

Mail or hand-deliver to: School Board Appointment
Commission of Anne Arundel County, c/o Board of Education Office,
2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401

E-mailed applications must be received by noon on Friday, August 31, 2018, to be considered.

E-mail to: sbac@aacps.org as a PDF file.

Please call 410-222-5311, after 24 hours, to confirm receipt.

| | | | |
|--|---------------|---|---|
| Full Name Raymond Patrick Leone | | List any former names used | |
| Address (applicant must be an Anne Arundel County resident) Edgewater MD 21037 | | | Are you a registered voter? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| How long have you been an Anne Arundel County resident? 54 yrs | Date of Birth | Can we contact you at work? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | Email address |
| Home Phone | Work Phone | Cell Phone | |

If you answer "yes" to any of the questions below, please attach comments.

- Yes No Have you ever been convicted of, entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or forfeited collateral for any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? Minor traffic offenses do not include the offenses of operating under the influence of liquor, operating while impaired, reckless driving or the equivalent offenses in other states.
- Yes No Have you ever been convicted of any crime that relates in any way to the responsibilities of a member of the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County?
- Yes No Have you ever been convicted of any crime that has not been expunged or otherwise shielded?
- Yes No Are you delinquent on any federal, state, or local debt? (Include delinquencies for income, property, or other taxes, governmental loans, overpayment of benefits, required payments into or under governmental programs, and other debts or required payments to the government plus any defaults on or under loans which are or where guaranteed, insured, or subsidized by any unit of government.)
- Yes No In the last five years, have you been, or are you presently a party of interest in any administrative agency proceeding or civil litigation, including any action regarding a professional license?
- Yes No Have you ever been adjudged bankrupt or insolvent?
- Yes No Has a complaint of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, age or handicap ever been filed against you or against any firm or organization during your affiliation with it?

Please attach a current résumé with this application. In addition, please provide here any professional organizational memberships and positions held and length of service: (Please limit to past 15 years) *Attach additional sheets as necessary.*

Attached

Received

AUG 31 2018

During the summer of 1990, I incurred a pair of DUI's. I was in my mid-twenties and was going through a particularly rough patch in my life. I was adjudicated and paid my fines. In the past 27 years, I have relayed my story to many adolescents and young adults as a cautionary story in hopes that they would not make the same choices.

Raymond Leone

Edgewater, MD 21037

June 2016 – Present

Supervisor, Plow and Hearth

Store operations, Inventory Controls, Customer Service, Cash Handling, Loss Prevention, Sales Plan execution

April 2016 – June 2016

Supervisor, Airport Services/Hudson News BWI Airport

Multiple unit operations, Inventory Controls, Customer Service, Cash Handling, Loss Prevention, Sales Plan execution, Café/Food Operations

November 2009 – January 2016

Store Manager, Smart Toys/Masquerade LLC (Business Closed)

Boutique Toy Store year-round with Conversions to Halloween during September/October. East Coast based. Full build out and stock of Grid based stores each season, Store operations, Inventory Controls, Customer Service, Cash Handling, Loss Prevention, Sales Plan execution **Managed 4 stores during Halloween Season 2014/2015 (Rockville Pike, Columbia Mall, Arundel Mills Mall, Annapolis Mall)**

February 2001 – November 2009

General Manager/Multiple Positions, Borders Books Music and Café (Business Closed)

Annapolis 2001-2008 Started as Part-time Books seller and worked my way through every supervisory position up to General Manager. Multiple unit operations, Inventory Controls, Customer Service, Cash Handling, Loss Prevention, Sales Plan execution, Café/Food Operations HR Management, Seasonal Mall based Calendar Kiosks

Prior to 2001 worked in the Cable TV Industry 1987-2000

Non-Profit work, Maryland/Anne Arundel County PTA

- 2015-present VP Advocacy/Legislation Anne Arundel County PTA
- 2013-2015 President Maryland PTA
- 2010-2013 President Anne Arundel County Council PTA
- 2008-2013 Maryland PTA Board of Directors
- 2005-2008 Local PTA President

Education

- 1982-1983 St Mary's College of Maryland
- 1983-1985 USAF Electronics School Keesler AFB MS

Honorably Discharged Veteran USAF 1983-1985

Application for Appointment to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County Board

Applicant Name

Raymond Leone

Community Involvement: (Please limit to the past 15 years.)

Attach additional sheets as necessary.

Please see attached sheets

Awards/Honors: What award/honors have you been most proud to receive?

(Please include the year of the award and the awarding institution or entity.)

Please see the attached sheets

Please provide a bulleted list of three goals you hope to accomplish if you are appointed to the Board of Education.

Please limit each bullet to 15 words.

Please see the attached sheets

Professional Memberships

Currently a Member of American Legion Post-226 (Mayo, MD) (2 years)

Currently VP Legislation Anne Arundel County Council of PTA's (3 years)

Currently Finance Chair Mayo United Methodist Church and serving on the Staff Parish Relations Council (SPRC) (4 Years)

Previous President Maryland PTA (2 Years) under which I served on the State Superintendents Advisory Council and the Title 1 Committee of Practitioners, Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, PTA designee to the State Adequacy Study Task Force (Kirwin Commission), and as the Maryland Family Engagement Framework Co-Chair

Previous President Anne Arundel County Council of PTA's (3 Years)

Grant Coordinator for the Maryland State Highway Safety Grant for After Prom activities for Anne Arundel County High Schools (5 years)

Previous Treasurer Edgewater Athletic Association (2 Years) This Organization is now merged with SRYA, South River Youth Athletics.

Previous VP Councils (2 Years), Funding and Resource Chair Maryland PTA (2 years)

Previous Treasurer South River HS Business Advisory Board (2 Years)

Previous Member Anne Arundel County Youth Soccer Association (2 years)

Community Involvement

I have been involved in the PTA at various levels since 2001 starting as Local PTA Treasurer and President at Edgewater Elementary School and served on the AACAC before the current CAC was formulated. I served as Co-Chair of the Parent Involvement Advisory Council while Dr. Maxwell was Superintendent and participated in the MGT Study during that time. I served in several positions on the County Council of PTA's and multiple positions at the Maryland State PTA, becoming President of each. I have been actively advocating for Youth and Parent issues for the past 15 years.

I have served on two redistricting committees and advisory boards at South River High School. I spent 7 years as a Soccer Coach in Edgewater Youth Athletics Programs. I ran fundraisers for several sports and booster clubs during the time my children attended Edgewater, Central Middle, and South River High Schools.

I have been active in my church (Mayo United Methodist and Parkwood Methodist-Merged 6 years ago) as the finance chair and on the SPRC. I also run several established events during the year.

Awards/Honors

Maryland PTA Dad of the Year 2007

AACPS Volunteer of the Month AACPS with my wife September 2007 Nominated by Central Middle School

Anne Arundel County Council of PTA's Outstanding Volunteer 2007

National PTA Life Achievement Award 2014

Maryland Governors Citation 2013

Annapolis City Council Citation 2014

Anne Arundel County Council Citation 2014

Goals I hope to Accomplish if Appointed

- Work toward solving the compensation issues that have been a chief concern for several years.
- Foster policies and projects that make our schools and students safer.
- Increase public participation and strive for complete transparency in Board decisions.

Question #1

I am interested in serving on the Board of Education because I want to see the School continue to thrive and grow. Meaning that I believe the school system has been on a good trajectory for the last decade or so but along the way I have noticed that several times where the ball has been dropped so to speak. I believe that to have the best outcomes we need teachers and employees that are fairly compensated and enjoy their jobs. We need to solve the pay issues that have been plaguing us for some time now. In order to do that we need to take a careful assessment of our last few budgets and spending and see if there are places where we can find funding. In most of my previous jobs I been responsible for outcomes that hit the businesses bottom line, through P&L analysis. I look at the Profit and Loss statements to see trends and anomalies looking for places where money can be saved. One of my strengths is this type of analysis.

Over the last 17 years, I have advocated for the replacement or revitalization of several schools, served on redistricting committees, advocated for the growth of AVID, IB, MYP and other programs. I would push to continue this path of revitalization and smaller schools. I firmly believe that smaller class sizes will help us close the achievement gap and allow our students to achieve greater success. The Boards job is to establish and maintain goals for the Superintendent and monitor them for compliance. The systems new Strategic Goals need to be monitored to make sure that they are getting input from large representation of each school community.

I want to invest time into finding ways to make our schools and students safer, without turning the school into an environment that makes them uncomfortable. We need to consider the students entire path to school as well. How do we give students the skills to monitor and react to dangerous situations around them? These worries are manifesting themselves at an alarming pace, and we need to be proactive, not reactive.

Finally, I have heard from many parents that the Board Meetings are hard to attend that participation is limited and that decisions seem to be made privately and sometimes not in a transparent fashion. I would like to explore having meetings in other parts of the county and mainly at night to help working parents and citizens have a greater ability to attend.

Question #2

The most critical issues facing the school system are Teacher Compensation, a shortage of school psychologists and social workers, and class size.

It is no secret that fairly compensated teachers with reasonable class sizes and support from administration in the form of adequate ratios of students to psychologists, and social workers is a recipe for success. The problem, in my opinion, is that we do not always prioritize the classroom or student environment when budgets are created. I would like to see a bottom-up approach to classroom funding. Starting with a plan to get teachers and other employees back to a comparable salary to their peers in neighboring counties and then hiring enough teachers, aides, psychologists, and social workers to right size classrooms, especially at the elementary school level. Once those factors are set, we can build the rest of the budget by priority on what

is left, namely, safety, transportation, programs, and administration. We would need a tight partnership with the County Executive and County Council to achieve this. It must be a collaborative effort due to the limitations in revenue that Anne Arundel County has. We need to be frugal wherever possible and remember that as the county student population continues to grow so does its obligation to spend more, going beyond that structured increase is always tough.

From a statewide perspective, we are 7th from the bottom among counties in Maryland in per-pupil funding. From a national perspective, the average per student is between \$11,000.00 and \$12,000.00 compared to Anne Arundel at just over \$14,200.00. Comparable counties are Montgomery and Howard, both at just over \$16,000.00 per student. I put this out there not to decry our ranking, but to give some perspective. We are a wealthy county that chooses to limit our taxes by law. It is the structure under which we must operate, to believe that we can drive our spending up without consequences in other departments is just not reasonable, the seat I am pursuing is only for 2 years, a ballot initiative to remove or change the tax cap cannot occur within that time frame. We can, however, put a measured agreement into place that builds teacher and administrative salaries by a percentage each year until we reach a level playing field. Losing teachers to neighboring jurisdictions is not an option, it takes continuity to build successful programs that raise achievement.

Question #3

I feel that the school system has several best practices. My perspective here is from many years of a strong PTA partnership with the school system. This partnership and the work of the Office of School and Family Partnerships is constantly ahead of its peers across the state. Fall and Spring Parenting Workshops and Presentations that help build up parental engagement and collaboration and celebrating volunteers over the course of the year and in May each year are two stellar examples of how the School System demonstrates it values parents.

I also believe that the new Strategic Goals being a school by school driven document will if utilized correctly by each school will be a real tool to energize communities and inform them about the school's practices and achievements. The three goals All Means All, Ready Set Launch, and Sound Stewardship are very encompassing and will build solid foundations for growth in our schools.

I continue to learn more about EEE, and I am encouraged to hear many teachers laud its innovative techniques. These techniques allow for some classroom flexibility and creativeness on the part of the teacher which benefits the different levels of learning encountered in today's classrooms. I have always been a vocal advocate for other special programs, AVID, IB, AP, MYP, and offerings like Project Lead the Way and STEM. While my children were in middle school, I was an AVID tutor; it was a very gratifying experience watching small groups tackle problems and pool their learning to teach each other, reinforcing the lessons in unique ways.

I would advocate as a board member for more vocational opportunities. A diverse offering of program choices helps students begin to narrow down tough life choices and provide varying degrees of rigor.

Question #4

My exposure to Anne Arundel County Public Schools has been rather extensive. I have been in a PTA leadership position for over 15 years. As County and State PTA President and in the years since I have conducted Leadership and Financial trainings several times per year. Met with principals and parent groups to start PTA's and help struggling PTA's. I have done many financial audits and personally trained several treasurers. I Served as Scholarship Chair and the Prom Breakfast Grants Coordinator.

I have served on the Parent Involvement Advisory Council (PIAC), Community Advisory Committee (CAC), Calendar Committee, as the Parent Representative on the Referrals Committee and several redistricting committees. I have testified before the Board of Education on numerous occasions and served for 2 years on the School Board Nominating Commission.

I have toured schools with the past Superintendent and helped arrange a visit by the former Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and the National PTA President. I have testified at the County Council on many occasions on the budget.

Most importantly, I am a graduate of Anne Arundel County Public Schools (Class of 1981, South River High) and parented both my children successfully through their school careers here in the South River feeder. My son is Currently enrolled in Anne Arundel Community College, and my Daughter graduated from Hofstra University over a year ago and is teaching High School in a Special Education program in NYC Public Schools and pursuing her master's degree

Application for Appointment to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County Board

Applicant Name

Raymond Leone

Please answer the following questions. Your responses for each question must be typed on 8½-by-11 sheets of paper using single-line spacing and 12-point font.

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County? Please include an explanation of the primary strengths you would bring to this position, and what you believe is the proper role of a Board member.
2. What do you believe are the most critical issues currently facing Anne Arundel County Public Schools? What specific ideas do you have to address these issues?
3. Please share any current Anne Arundel County Public Schools best practices and procedures you are familiar with and how you feel these initiatives benefit students and the community.
4. What is your exposure to, or experience with, Anne Arundel County Public Schools?

I CERTIFY that:

- *This application (and any copy or facsimile of same) contains no willful misrepresentation and that the information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.*
- *Completion and submission of this application gives the School Board Appointment Commission of Anne Arundel County the authority to submit my name for a criminal records check, including a search of the child abuse registry.*
- *Information on this application and any documents submitted to be included with this application will be deemed public records of the School Board Appointment Commission of Anne Arundel County and may be made available to the public. Only information deemed confidential in accordance with applicable federal and state law will be withheld from public disclosure.*
- *Should any investigation at any time disclose otherwise, my application may be rejected, my name may be removed from consideration for appointment to the Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, and I may be disqualified from applying for any future Board vacancy.*
- *I am not presently employed by the Board of Education.*

By signing this application, I am consenting to any reasonable inquiry that may be necessary to verify the information I have provided on this form or that I may provide in conjunction with my application for the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.



Signature

8-31-2018

Date