

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

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## **Amy Riccardi, Candidate for School Board – Sterling, Calls for Urgent Action to Address Fentanyl Crisis**

**Sterling, VA**, November 4, 2023 — Amy Riccardi, candidate for the Loudoun County School Board, Sterling District, issues a strong call to action to address the Fentanyl crisis affecting our local schools. Riccardi applauds the recent Fentanyl education event held by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office, LCPS, and the administrative team at Park View High School, emphasizing its importance for the Sterling Park community.

The recent Fentanyl crisis at Park View High School and other schools in our district has raised concerns about the lack of transparency and consistent communication from the LCPS administration. “There is a critical need for timely and transparent communication during crises, which was effectively practiced during the COVID pandemic but has been lacking in the case of drug overdoses,” emphasized Amy Riccardi.

Riccardi also raises concerns about the handling of the crisis by the new superintendent, Dr. Spence, and the underreporting of the extent of overdoses affecting students. She highlights the need for accurate data to address the situation effectively.

“The School Board must convene an emergency meeting to address this issue promptly and establish a comprehensive action plan with the necessary resources to combat the problem before it becomes fatal,” said Riccardi. She questions why it took a press release from the Sheriff's office before the LCPS Administration reacted, emphasizing the need for immediate action.

Riccardi said, “The safety of Park View students should be a top priority and ALL available measures to save lives should be considered.”

This situation and others have revealed underlying issues within the School Board and LCPS Administration, including the silencing of teachers, staff, and administrators who raise concerns that do not align with the political narrative of the School Board or Administration.

Riccardi calls for decisive action and collaboration between the LCSO, School Board and Administration to mobilize all available resources for schools facing a Fentanyl crisis. She also emphasizes the need for impactful legal consequences for students engaged in drug dealing and mental health and addiction support for those using drugs.

“Addressing drug issues in schools is a serious matter. The School Board must review its policies and ensure their thorough enforcement to protect the well-being of our children. Policies must be written to call these incidents “drug overdoses”, not “medical emergencies”, and communications must go out immediately to the entire school community when these overdoses occur,” stated Riccardi.

In conclusion, Amy Riccardi emphasizes the importance of advocating for our children and providing a safer educational environment, not engaging in political activism. She eagerly anticipates serving the Loudoun County community in the future and believes that our school administrators, teachers, and staff deserve better, and, above all, our children deserve more.

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