

Dr. Kelsey Pope is on a life-long journey of learning and teaching. She earned her Bachelors in Elementary Education in 2004 from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). Her education continued at UMCP, as she earned a Masters in Minority and Urban Education in 2006 and a Doctorate in Reading Education in 2016. Over the past 16 years Dr. Pope has served as a grade level team leader and school-based leadership team member. Dr. Pope often won special programs grants for her school. In her spare time, she is a mentor through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Dr. Kelsey Lynne Anderson Pope

A. EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park
Bachelors of Science, Elementary Education, 2004
Master of Arts, Minority and Urban Education, 2006
Doctor of Philosophy, Curriculum and Instruction: Reading Education, 2016

B. CERTIFICATIONS

Advanced Professional Certificate (Elementary Education 1-6 & Middle School)

C. EXPERIENCE

Board Member, 2019
Always Reading, Inc.

Resource Teacher and Academic Engagement Teacher, Office of Title I, 2017-present
5th Grade Teacher, 2011-2017
Baltimore County Public Schools

4th and 5th Grade Teacher and School Based Management Team, 2004-2007
8th Grade Science Teacher, 2007-2011
Prince George's County Public Schools

English Language Arts Curriculum Workshop Writer, 2014
Baltimore County Public Schools

Adjunct Critical Reading Professor, 2012
Anne Arundel Community College

Director of Summer Playground Camp, 2008-2009
Parks and Recreation, M-NCPPC

D. LEADERSHIP

Grade Level Team Leader and Leadership Team Member, 2011-2018
Baltimore County Public Schools

School Based Management Team 2004-2007
Prince George's County Public School

Mentor Teacher to Student Intern (Goucher College and University of Maryland), 2006-2008, 2016
Baltimore County Public Schools
Prince George's County Public Schools

E. AWARDS/RECOGNITION

21st Century Instructional Initiative Grant for STEM Projects Recipient, 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018
Baltimore County Public Schools

DISSERTATION, 2016

#BlackLiteracyLivesMatter: Revealing African American Adolescents' Multimodal Literacy Practices in Online Social Networks at a Community Center. Chair: Dr. Jennifer Turner

BOOK CHAPTER CO-AUTHORED, 2012

Turner, J., & Pope, K. (2012). On lanterns and footwalkers: Jonathan Kozol's vision for literacy for our times. In R. Ognibene (Ed.), *A persistent reformer* (pp. 98-116). New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing.

Part III – Personal Statement

Personal Statement

Michelle Obama once said “Empower yourselves with a good education, then get out there and use that education, to build a country worthy of your boundless promise”. I am Dr. Kelsey Pope and my journey as a life-long learner and educator has empowered me to use my knowledge and talents. I value education and seek to ensure that all learners are given the opportunity to succeed. It will be my mission that “all” actually means all. It is with pride that I nominate myself to be a Teacher Member of the State Board of Education. As a member, I hope to serve as the voice of students and teachers. I am determined to support and advocate for equitable and effective education in Maryland.

I have been a classroom teacher for 16 years, effectively engaging diverse groups of 1st through 8th grade scholars in various learning environments. My students often met with success due an my academically and socially conducive learning environment. As a teaching coach, I developed lessons and activities with teams of teachers that boosted foundational skills across contents and began to close achievement gaps. I continue to dedicate myself to various aspects of education.

My doctoral dissertation, titled #BlackLiteracyLivesMatter: Revealing African American Adolescents’ Multimodal Literacy Practices in Online Social Networks at a Community Center, revealed multimodal practices including communicating, entertaining, gathering information and taking a stance as adolescents successfully navigated their favorite online social networks. Through this study, I was able to uncover skills and practices that demonstrated a high level of literacy competency, hidden within a multimodal rich environment.

I am an African American woman with a passion for education. I strive to create and support effective and equitable initiatives that will inspire creative thinkers and leaders of the future. I am dedicated to the marginalized members of our nation that deserve a globally competitive education. I believe that investors of education, such as myself, are responsible for ensuring this feat. I am prepared to become a member of the board that will ensure our students are educated and empowered.

3 October 2019

Maryland State Department of Education
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-2595

Dear Maryland State Department of Education Members;

It is my great pleasure to personally recommend Dr. Kelsey Pope for the newly created role of State Board of Education Teacher Member of Maryland. Dr. Pope has held the position as an educator at Winand Elementary school for over six (6) years and is loved by students, parents, and educators alike. I am Paula Staats, mother of three children whom have all graduated from Winand Elementary School and each of them were in Dr. Pope's 5th grade class. As a military family we have observed how countless teachers interact with their students and parents in and out of the classroom. Many of those teachers pale in comparison to Dr. Pope as she uses a variety of pedagogical approaches, from breaking the class up into small groups to integrating two different subjects to keep students engaged in learning.

Dr. Pope's extensive knowledge of Mathematics, English and Science was immediately apparent in her ability to simplify complex topics, which proved to be helpful for my son who struggled with reading comprehension. She not only simplified complex subjects, but she challenged those like my daughters who remain in GT classes unto this day. Dr. Pope's ability to push children to exceed their expectations and her unwavering commitment to the education of students and that of her own encourages everyone who knows her to never stop learning no matter how challenging. |

Speaking of challenges, Dr. Pope had one of the greatest challenges during the 2013-2014 school year with one of her students. During the first semester of that school year a student in her class was diagnosed with Leukemia and his only wish was to walk across the stage with his friends for their fifth grade graduation. Dr. Pope was not only committed to those she taught on a daily basis in the classroom, but she helped this student out of the classroom and worked harder to ensure he did not get left behind. This student not only walked across the stage that year with his friends, but today he is a junior at Milford Mill Academy and he is looking forward to go to an out of state University. This child I am referring to is my son. I know without a doubt that Dr. Pope's tireless commitment to his success is one of the reasons that he is thriving not just academically but athletically today.

Dr. Pope's overall involvement in my children's lives are a testament to how dedicated she is to teaching. She exemplifies the qualities of an ideal educator and mentor, which I believe align with the SBOE Vision statement.

For the aforementioned reasons stated above, Dr. Pope has my full recommendation and support in having her name submitted to the Governor for appointment as the State Board of Education Teacher Member.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Paula Staats

Dear Board of Elections,

I am writing to you to highly recommend Dr. Pope, Kelsey as a State Board of Education Teacher Representative. Dr. Pope has been an outstanding elementary teacher for many years. Dr. Pope and I became co-workers back in 2013, by nature as both were assigned fifth grade teaching positions within Winand Elementary. Dr. Pope worked tirelessly as team leader and as a colleague on our fifth-grade team.

Dr. Pope was a great leader on the team and to our students. She always presented the upstanding fair and ethical teacher, within every environment, inside school as well as within the public domain. Dr. Pope served on multiple committees within our school and stepped up to assist others when she saw the it would benefit our students either academically or with social and emotional support. Dr. Pope held after school support sessions with students to help ensure they had the opportunity to achieve increased scores on academic tests. She was a volunteer representative for our school on our Lead for Equity Committee. Dr. Pope also spear headed many activities (such as STEM NIGHT, and College Career Day), that encouraged and promoted our students to be ready for school and careers beyond the High School. Even before our school was identified as being on the threshold edge of a Title One school, Dr. Pope was instrumental in getting our students, who qualified for Title One benefits, the assistance they needed to bridge gaps their testing data indicated. She did this through individualized tutoring and mentoring sessions afterschool with those students she had discovered the need existed. Dr. Pope was always one to look at the facts and clear away any doubts, our students had of their own capabilities.

It was a bitter sweet ending to our close partnership as team mates when Dr. Pope moved on to a leading position for the Title One department of Baltimore County. There could not have been a better suited person for that position as well. She was able to analyze the data to sort out the student needs and serve them effectively.

In closing I feel confident in Dr. Pope's ability to provide the leadership, and advocacy to ensure continuous improvement of Maryland's educational system, to make fair and ethical decisions that serve to promote the best academic environment for our students.

If you have any further questions or would like to speak with me personally, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Pamela Quintern

Winand Elementary School

410-887-0763

8301 Scotts Level Road · Baltimore, Maryland 21208

Fax: 410-887-0730

To Whom it may Concern:

Date: October 9, 2019

I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Dr. Kelsey Pope. I highly recommend Dr. Pope to your organization for the position of Board Member.

I have known Dr. Pope for the past four years and she has been an exemplary educator. As her principal, I have had an opportunity to observe her participation and interaction with all stakeholders and to evaluate her extensive knowledge and pedagogy. She is an outstanding individual who is passionate about her purpose, especially if it impacts the realm of education. Dr. Pope has consistently proven through her dedication, follow through and hard work that she is able to accomplish tasks in a timely and professional manner.

Dr. Pope continues to challenge herself and always strives to do more. She is patient, results oriented and above all an excellent listener. I strongly recommend Dr. Pope to be selected as part of your team as she will most certainly prove to be an asset.

Please contact me if you need additional information. I may be reached by phone at 443.904.2439 or by email at dbasu@bcps.org

Sincerely,



Debita Basu, Principal