

Subject: The Business Monthly's Political Update

Below are two questions we are asking each of the candidates. Please respond, beginning with a biography (no more than 50-words), including desired office and district (if appropriate), then address the questions, limiting your response to a total of 250 words. Additionally, please include a photo.

The deadline for question responses is July 12th. Please e-mail your responses here, to [news@bizmonthly.com](mailto:news@bizmonthly.com), or fax to 410-992-9754.

### **Biography for Allen Dyer, Candidate for Board of Education (50 words)**

**Allen Dyer is an attorney, computer consultant, blacksmith and his children are River Hill HS graduates.**

**Dyer was an Air Force Captain (USAFA 68), a decorated combat pilot (D.F.C.), and flight instructor in airplanes, gliders, & balloons at the USAF Academy.**

**Allen Dyer has taught computer science at Ann Arundel Community College.**

The Questions:

1.. What is your position on the necessity of school redistricting?  
How would you recommend the school board/county handle the issue?

**(53 words)**

**Continued growth will mean new schools and, of necessity, redistricting. To minimize the impact of redistricting on student performance, the Board of Education should adopt a feeder school system so students and their school friends can advance together through middle school and high school. Respect students and they will perform at their best.**

2.. What position do you take on revising school policy to allow students to leave school early, one day each week, for religious observances? To what extent should the board make accommodations for religious tolerance, and should the board or the school seek recourse if the policy negatively affects a student's academic performance?

**(147 words)**

**In *Zorach v. Clauson* (1952) the Supreme Court ruled that states could release public school students for religious instruction without violating the Establishment Clause. States, however, are not required to release students for religious instruction. The legislature of each state decides whether to establish a religious education release program.**

**In Maryland, the General Assembly enacted a compulsory attendance statute that only authorizes local superintendents to excuse “lawful absences.” EDUCATION ARTICLE §7-301(b). The General Assembly has never delegated specific authority to local boards of education to dismiss students for religious education.**

**If the Board of Education wants to release students from their regular studies for purposes of religion, the Board should seek specific authority from the General Assembly. The Board should not risk litigation that will siphon our public education money out of the classroom and into the pockets of retained counsel.**

**Respect the law—Respect people—Fiscal accountability.**

**(TOTAL = 250 words.)**