

SCGOP Questions for School Board Trustee Candidates

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1. What is the purpose of public education?

I believe that the purpose is to provide basic academic education for all which should set them up to be a successful adult. This means teaching STEM (science, technology, English and math) as well as introducing them to potential career paths once they get into high school.

2. What skills do you believe students should learn in school?

Obviously a sound foundation in STEM. Once this is achieved, critical thinking is vital. If a student has this foundation and can critically think, they should be able to look at any issue or problem and think their way through it.

3. Do you think there is an overreliance on technology in the Elementary Grades?

My knee jerk reaction is yes, we as a society are overly reliant on technology. That being said, I don't see technology going away anytime soon, so our children need to learn how to operate and function in this technology driven world. It is a great tool, but should also not replace a basic foundational education and being able to critically think. Just because we all have a cell phone with a calculator with us at all times, does not mean we shouldn't know how to add and subtract.

4. What role does the school have in providing non-academic services?

There is a big benefit when students are introduced and offered extra curricular activities. Sports teach student comradery, drive, and team building. Activities such as FFA teach students real world applications. Most clubs and Activities offered through the school have something to offer a student that may spark an interest and potentially take them down a path they may otherwise have not gone down.

I don't believe it is the school's place to be "everything to everyone". It seems that the trend is for schools to offer SEL (social, emotional learning) in an attempt to instill a certain set of values, attitudes, beliefs and world views into students. Teaching values should be the parents job.

SEL'a hidden agenda is to get children to view society as privileged vs oppressed and to become agents of social change. They want children to adopt new norms and to think based on identity and become social justice warriors. These type of non-academic programs do not belong in schools.

5. What is the role of parents in public education?

Parents should be active participants in their children's education. I believe in a parent/ teacher partnership. This doesn't mean parents micromanage teachers, but it also doesn't mean parents should blindly drop their kids off at the front doors and have no involvement. Parents are a child's first teacher and will continue to teach them into adulthood. Parents should feel welcome asking questions from teachers, administration and the board.

6. How do you define the role of an individual board trustee?

Someone who contributes to the success of the district through strategic planning and development, being fiscally smart, taking into account the needs of the staff and the community they represent. A trustee should make sure they are well informed, ask questions and do the will of the taxpayers they represent.

7. How do you define the role of the board of trustees?

The school board should represent the community's voice in education. They do this through creating policy, setting a budget and supporting the superintendent and staff.

8. How do you define the board's role in supporting the administration and teachers?

The Board's job is to create policy that supports the administration and teachers. The board also oversees the superintendent and should hold him accountable for supporting the teachers.

(a) How do you define the board's role in oversight of the administration and teachers?

the Board overseeing the superintendent. The superintendent then oversees the teachers.

(b) As a trustee, how would you reconcile those two roles?

Make sure that the correct policies are in place that ensure the teachers feel they are supported and guided. The board also should hold the superintendent accountable for overseeing and supporting the teachers.

9. What do you believe are the biggest threats to public education?

The teacher shortage is one of the biggest threats. With that comes a host of issues. The WEA teacher satisfaction survey In 2022 showed that 65% of teachers would quit

if they could and fewer and fewer people are graduating from teaching programs. The reasons for this vary. Pay, workload / expectations, student behavior are just some of the contributing factors. If we could focus on correction these issues, the problem of the teacher shortage would be corrected.

10. Do you believe there are budgetary items where spending should be reduced or cut from the budget? If so, please identify those items and why.

The district's budget is roughly \$54 million this year. The board received a 19 page overview of where that money would be allocated. This is by no means enough information to see where cuts could be made.

About 80% of that is HR related (salaries, benefits ect) In today's world with rising cost of living and inflation, this is obviously something that cannot be decreased.

The remaining 20% would need greater scrutiny than what was supplied to the board. I We should be keeping our money as close to the classroom as we can.

11. Do you believe there are budgetary items where spending should be increased? If so, please identify those items and why.

Again, I would need to take a much more in depth look at the line by line budget. I would also want the input of the teachers and the rest of the "boots on the ground" to get their input and reason why they feel an area would need a bigger budget. Obviously, this would mean taking money from another area (see question 10) to have a balanced budget, so it would have to be scrutinized thoroughly.

12. What can your district improve?

The schools and teachers do a great job of communicating. They use communication apps, emails, and monthly newsletters. The board, however, can greatly improve its communication to the community. This should happen in several ways. A few examples are:

- 1) hold open forums where there could be a question/ answer period between the stakeholders and the board members- no agenda, just a conversation
- 2) Send out communication regarding upcoming agenda items and encourage community involvement. (emails, social media)
- 3) Change public comment to the beginning of a meeting so the board can see how the community feels about a certain subject.

13. What does your district do well?

This could be a very long list! The awards and achievements our schools receive in academics and athletics speak volumes. Blue Ribbon schools, highest test scores, sports records being broken are just a few.

14. Are you okay with allowing licensed conceal and carry holders on and within school property with a firearm?

YES / NO (Circle One) Yes

Why? It is our constitutional right to bear arms and this right shall not be infringed upon.

Unfortunately we live in a world where school shootings and violence exist. As we have seen in several mass shootings when there is an armed citizen who can take care of the threat the number of casualties is minimized.

15. Are you willing to not accept federal funds if there are strings attached regarding gender identity such as: boys being in girl's bathrooms or locker rooms, males participating in women's sports, etc.?

YES / NO (Circle One) No

Why? We should not accept any funding if strings are attached. In fact we should stay away from being beholden to the federal government.

Biological males have no business being in females bathrooms or sports. This puts females in an unsafe and unfair position.