

SCGOP Questions for School Board Trustee Candidates

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1. What is the purpose of public education?

In essence, to provide for equitable access to all children, and be designed to equip students with essential knowledge and skills, while also promoting the common good.

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

I believe in more classic liberal arts education. One that emphasizes grammar, writing, rhetoric, math, history, and music all while adhering to state and federal standards.

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

As a parent of boys that have since graduated SCSD#2, it's hard for me to say whether there is or isn't an overreliance on tech in the classroom. At this point, I'd need to rely on conversations with parents and teachers to try and gauge if the level is appropriate or not.

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

Assuming this question is to mean things that are not classroom based or any extra curricular activity. Sports for example, have a long history as being part of public education. Or school counselors providing advice and support to students in investing in resources to help further their education. I do believe, overall, that any non-academic service or activity, when done correctly, can and should build upon the classroom experience.

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

Parents are to be our first teachers. The ones that provide for the foundation upon which the building is built. They also are to be engaged with the schools and the board of trustees in ensuring the common good is being met. That content is relevant to the age of the student and the subjects being taught.

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

To help in and actively support SCSD#2's mission, vision, and goals. An individual trustee practices good governance, that is to say, attend meetings regularly, come as prepared as possible, and be knowledgeable of current

operations. They're also to adhere to fiduciary duties, such as care, loyalty, and obedience. Care, to give the same consideration to issues coming before the board, as any otherwise prudent person would give to their own affairs. Loyalty, that is to put the interests of the board before one's own interest. Obedience, that is to ensure SCSD#2 complies with all state and federal laws in addition to tit's own policies, bylaws, and mission.

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

Put simply, the role of the board of trustees is to represent the views of stakeholders including parents, students, teachers, staff, administration, and the general public in the oversight and governance of SCSD#2.

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

I see the board's role as being an advocate for the administration and teachers through community engagement that works through two-way communication as well as developing and enforcing policies where needed and enhancing when appropriate.

9. How do you define the board's role in oversight of the administration and teachers?

The board's role in oversight includes making sure budgets and policies are upheld, setting the mission and vision of the district, and evaluation and review of the district's superintendent and teachers.

10. As a trustee, how would you reconcile those two roles?

In support, I see that as setting up a framework, the course to navigate if you will. In oversight, I see that as enforcing the rules of the road so to speak. One compliment's the other. Without either, chaos ensues.

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

I believe, currently the top down approach is the biggest threat to public education. The "we know what's best" heavy handed attitude that we are currently experiencing from the Federal Gov't, is eroding the foundational fabric and vision in which our public education system was founded upon. That the common good approach that helped build western civilization is being replaced with a subjective, tasteless, version of reality.

12. 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.

As I stated at the public forum held Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024, as a newcomer to this process, when considering budgetary cuts or reductions, it's hard for me to tell based on the level of transparency SCSD#2's budget provides. I will look to more clearly identify items that are discretionary and those that are not.

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

Refer to answer for #12.

14. What can your district improve?

In my short time listening and learning about issues related to SCSD#2, specifically from teachers, it seems there's still a feeling of a lack of support, despite what is being said from the Admin. Every year teachers fill out evaluation forms, and from the ones that voiced their concerns to me, they feel as if they aren't being heard or taken seriously. so , at this time, if I had to say if there was one thing the district could improve on, it's the three-way communication between the board, administration, and the teachers.

15. What does your district do well?

Other than racking up state titles ranging from football to We the People? In all seriousness, as evidenced by consistent academic national rankings year after year, SCSD#2 continually proves it allows for and produces top tier, well rounded students.

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

Put plainly, **YES!**

When considering who to allow to carry firearms on and within school property, it would seem that those that are licensed conceal carry are more apt to take the right to do so more seriously than others that aren't. That they train and are at least somewhat proficient in carrying their firearm in a manner that allows for discreet concealment and use should the need arise.

YES / NO (Circle One)

Why?

17. 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.?

Put plainly, **YES!**

The attempt to rewrite Title IX by the Biden Administration runs completely contrary to all that we know to be true and good about the differences of men and women! The attempt to square "fairness and equality" in allowing so-called transgender females to compete with biological females flies in the face of logic and reason and in doing so, actually reduces the "fairness and equality" in which the rewrite attempts to accomplish.

YES / NO (Circle One)

Why?