

SCGOP Questions for School Board Trustee Candidates

Candidate's Name: Jeff Tomlinson
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1. What is the purpose of public education?

The purpose of public education is to develop students academically for the next phase of their life. As students near the end of their public education experience they should be prepared for the work force, military service or higher education.

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

There are many skills students should learn while in their public education formation. I believe the top 3 skills all students should possess prior to departing high school are communication skills, critical thinking skills, and problem solving skills.

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

It has been 8 years since I had a child in Elementary Grades in Sheridan. From the experience I had as a parent, I would say no, there is not an overreliance on technology. Technology will continue to drive the world. We must engage students from a young age with technology so they are able to navigate the digital world.

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

I believe extra curricular activities are crucial to student success. Extra curricular activities provide students the opportunity to find their passions and compliment the academic side of public education

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

Parents should be one of the cornerstones of public education. Parents are entitled to have their voices heard and be informed of all aspects of their students public education. I do not believe that public schools are covered by HIPPA regulations. What transpires in schools should be known to parents.

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

The role of the individual trustee is to listen to all stakeholders involved. Using all relevant information provided to help devise policy for the board as a whole.

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

The role of the board of trustees is to provide leadership to the district. This leadership is delivered through assisting in developing effective district goals, board policy decisions, and personal decisions.

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

The boards roll in supporting the administration and the professional staff is to create an environment where employees are able to perform their job tasks at the highest level. The job all staff should have is teaching. The most successful employees are the ones who desire to be given a job and then be empowered to do that job

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

When there is proper goal setting and evaluation procedures in place oversight is an easy task. The first step to proper oversight is establishing expectations.

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

Employees who know they have your support are more willing to accept oversight. It is critical to establish expectations and maintain consistency. When you evaluate to the expectations and deliver the necessary resources all parties involved are respected.

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

I believe the biggest threats to public education are special interest groups trying to bring adult problems to students. Children need to have time in their lives to be kids. I believe one of the best ways we can protect children is to keep divisive rhetoric and drama out of their lives.

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.

At this time, all I have seen as it pertains to SCSD2 budget is the budget overview. It is difficult to comment on the budget with such limited information available.

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

As with the previous question, I do not have adequate information to respond to this.

12. What can your district improve?

One of the areas that I would like to see improvement is communication with all stakeholders.

13. What does your district do well?

I believe our district does an excellent job with students who are highly motivated college bound. SCSD2 provide exceptional resources for these students.

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

YES / NO (Circle One)

Why?

I do not believe Gun Free Zones are a way to make schools safer. However, simply possessing a concealed and carry permit is not sufficient. If district staff wishes to carry on district property they need to be adequately trained.

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)

Why?

Gender identity has no place in public schools.