

## **SCGOP Questions for School Board Trustee Candidates**

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**School District:** 1  
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**1. What is the purpose of public education?**

To educate our children and provide them with the knowledge needed to pursue higher education or career choices.

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

Reading, writing (including cursive), arithmetic, social skills (vocational classes, home economics, etc.), and personal finance.

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

Yes, absolutely. The children in those grades need to be taught to use their God given brain to figure things out on their own. They need to learn grammar and how to spell and not rely on computers and spell check. They need to learn math skills and not rely on a calculator all the time. Even computers may not always be right, and they would not be able to realize it. No AI.

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

None, if they do not have the funding for them. The sports, music, drama, speech debate are all electives and are nice for those that are interested in them. But even though services need to emphasize that it's not always about winning or losing. It's about sportsmanship, hard work, and respect.

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

A very important role. They are the ones that have control of their children's future, their behavior, and every important decision in the child's life. The school & teachers are there in provide the subject knowledge for the education.

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

The role of a board trustee is to listen to what the parents or caregivers want for their children. With the direction provided by the state choose the best core curriculum for each school. Make sure each school is a safe environment for the children and monitor the budget to make sure the spending is giving each child the best education they deserve.

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

To accomplish the role described above the entire board needs to work together and talk things out for what is in the best interest of the children. The individual board members need to strive to maintain unity and not develop a division among them for the agenda of anyone individual.

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

The board should support the academic mission of the school and provide the teachers and administration with the tools they need to make sure each student is receiving the best education available. Through careful budgeting and spending to policy making that provides the staff with clear guidelines and expectations for performance, the board should support the teachers.

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

The board is the voice of the community in the schools. It does not exist to cheerlead for the schools, but to make sure that the community, especially the families of the students, are getting what they deserve from the school. The board must provide oversight of the administration to ensure accountability and transparency to the public. The board answers to the voters in the community, not the administration.

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

The board must ensure accountability by asking questions of the administration and making sure the community knows what is happening in the schools. A board member can support the district staff by providing them with the tools and resources to provide an excellent educational experience for the students. However, the board must ask questions and avoid becoming a rubber stamp for the administration.

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

The biggest threat to public education is the intrusion of the federal government and all the strings they attach to federal money.

**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?**

There are no specific hardline items that I see that need to be cut, but I do think we have to look at the budget objectively. For instance, what do we truly need for the children's education and for them to succeed to their highest potential whether it is higher education or work force ready.

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

Yes, I believe additional classes such as vocational tech, home education, and personal finance. Those type of classes and others could help sustain the students in life and in any crisis.

**12. What can your district improve?**

I think listening to the parents and asking them what their concerns are what they like about their child's education. I also think welcoming the input from both parents and students at the trustee's meetings and not ignoring them as if they are not there.

**13. What does your district do well?**

District #1 does several things well. Academically, the schools in the district outperform other schools in Wyoming, and the district has a great group of teachers. The schools also excel at extracurricular activities, such as athletic programs at both high schools, the speech and debate program at Big Horn High School, and the robotics program at Tongue River High School. The best thing about the district is the outstanding group of parents and families who support their children and provide the district with students that value learning.

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

Gun free zones are a local control decision. Cody schools have specific qualified staff that carry. Scsd #1 could implement a similar policy.

**15. Are you willing to accept federal funds if there are strings attached regarding gender identity such as: boys being in girls bathroom or locker rooms, males participating in women's sports?**

**Yes / No (Circle one)**

**Why?**

Absolutely not! We do not need federal money for anything. By taking federal money the government wants control. Boys are boys and girls are girls and they each need their own bathrooms and locker rooms. Males are males and women are women and sports are gender specific.