



School Board Elections: Be active! Ask questions! Get informed! Vote!

Parents for Public Schools developed this document to help voters ask meaningful questions of candidates. It is intended to highlight important issues facing education. We urge you to contact candidates to ask questions. It is crucial that residents be well informed about the issues and vote.

Concerns	Bigger Issues	Questions You Can Ask
<p>"A few children in my child's class are disruptive and their behavior interferes with learning." "My child seems to be unfairly singled out as a troublemaker. I'm upset and don't know what to do."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers need training and adequate support to discipline effectively. • Discipline and expectations need to be consistent within individual schools and from school to school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will the board support teachers and administrators in disciplining effectively? • What will you do to make sure all students are treated fairly? • Does our district student handbook need updating to reflect changes?
<p>"My neighbors do not want to send their child to public school yet my child has been getting a good education there."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many people think that public schools are not good. • Our community needs to hear about school successes. • District doesn't hold enough community forums. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What will you do to improve public relations with the <i>entire</i> community? • What steps will you take to restore confidence in public education?
<p>"I don't understand how the board and the district make important decisions that affect my child." "Is any consideration given to parents when decisions are made that impact students?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When parents and administrators share in decision making, students perform better. • Clear, direct, and consistent communication with parents and community promotes successful schools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you support meaningful and effective decision making in the district? • What will you do to make sure families are kept informed? • How will you hold the superintendent accountable?
<p>"My child has to take too many tests. I don't understand why so much testing is necessary." "What is the impact of testing on my child's successful completion of their K-12 education?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City, state, and federal regulations require testing at almost every grade. • Testing is generally required for receiving a high school diploma. • Understanding student testing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can schools monitor progress without over testing? • What will you do to make sure that students who do not pass the tests get the extra help they need while helping to maintain their self esteem?
<p>"The assistant principal at my child's school has been overlooked for a promotion for many years while doing a great job."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced teachers and administrators leave when support and a development plan aren't in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will you work to ensure that career development plans are in place for all educators?
<p>"Why are public schools always seeking more funds?" Are there funds available for parental engagement?"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding school finance. • Understanding how district budgets are developed. • Funding and parental engagement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have prior budget experience? • What will you do to make sure that public school funding is used effectively? • How will parents be engaged in the process?
<p>"I can't get a straight answer from the principal or anyone else when I have questions." "Every time I asked for public information about the district, I am sent from office to office."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District accountability. • Role of the school board. • Role of the superintendent. • Role of school administrators. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of the school board in the day-to-day operations of the district? • How will you work with the elected superintendent or how will you determine who you will appoint? • What factors are important in the selection of a school superintendent? • What is the role of school-based administrators?