

## School Board Member Candidate Survey: 2023

Additional comments provided by: Russ Larson

***Question 4: Meeting the mental health and social/emotional needs of our students is paramount to their academic and lifetime success. This requires funds from the school budget, such as hiring school psychologists and social workers. Do you agree or disagree that school district funds should be among the funds used to address students' mental health needs?***

For the question on using school district funds to address students' mental health needs, while I agree some funds should be allocated for this need, it should be limited to diagnosing and helping those with true needs. We should not pay to diagnose every student (where parents haven't asked and there is no imminent need for the child) and we shouldn't try to program kids in a collective way toward one view of society. Email me to explore this if desired.

***Question 6: The most important job of a school board member is to make sure students are meeting state academic standards in schools where they are safe and nurtured. Do you agree or disagree that this is the most important focus of your position on the school board?***

For the question on the most important job of a school board member, while I agree our job is to ensure students are meeting academic standards in a safe and nurturing environment, I also believe it's our job to measure our progress and improve our kids' academic outcomes across all cohorts. My focus will be on what matters most to students, namely learning!

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