

## **School Board Member Candidate Survey: 2023**

Additional comments provided by: **Theresa Brown**

***Question 1: The legislature is considering state funding for private school vouchers. As a school board member, would you agree or disagree with the idea of using public funds for private school vouchers?***

1-It is my understanding that private and parochial school system function as quasi-public educational networks in parallel to the state system. The test for any school is whether the public has a common and equal right to use and benefit.

***Question 2: The PA Senate is now considering legislation (HB 1422 that has passed through the House) that would modernize Pennsylvania's charter school law to ensure transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility. As a school board member, would you agree or disagree with this approach to regulating charter schools?***

2-HB1422 puts in affect transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility in the establishment, governance and operation of charter schools. Charter and cyber schools are alternatives to public education. Alternatives without rules and regulations does not mean better. The public schools are required to be certified while states have given money to institutions that do not have the same requirements. Funds come directly from public school districts further straining their resources. Charter schools should be held by the same standards as any institution that receives public funds.

***Question 3: Do you agree or disagree that working with teachers unions is necessary to address the teacher shortage crisis in our state?***

3-I do not disagree that working with teachers unions is necessary to address the teacher's shortage crises in our state. Local teachers can find power by volunteering to participate in union actions and strengthening relationships across district boundaries. We must grow with one another and insist on an expansive common purpose where every voice can add to the growing ensemble for change.

***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?***

4-One thing we understand is that physical mental health promotes success in life. The mental health crises for children and youth has reached a critical point since the pandemic. As educators we realize that the impact that a student's mental health has on learning and achievement is significant. Our mental health affects how we think, feel, and act.

***Question 5: Spending school district funds on career and technical education (CTE) benefits all students as they determine their post-graduation plans. As a school board member, would you agree or disagree with putting more funds toward career related learning?***

5-Quality modern career and technical education or CET programs are the foremost college and career-readiness programs, providing both technical training and hands on learning experiences. These experiences allow students to practice and develop cross-cutting skills that all employers value.

***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?***

6-The school board members serve as educational leaders of the community. Our responsibility is to provide the best educational opportunities possible for our students in a safe and nurturing environment.

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