

School Board Member Candidate Survey: 2023

Additional comments provided by: Jeffrey Wallack

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?

“In my opinion, Question No. 6 above concerning the most important focus of a school board member misses the focus of the relationship between the school board (governance) and the school district administration (operations and implementation). The most important focus of a school board member should be to govern fairly and effectively, based upon all available information and knowledge, in accordance with the District's goals, vision and comprehensive plan. That governance function includes hiring a Superintendent with a vision for the mission of the school district and ensuring, through governance, that the School District administration works towards the District goals and vision, including the District's comprehensive plan. By doing these things, a School Board member works to make sure that his/her/their School District is able to make sure that ALL students are supported in a safe and nurturing environment. Stated differently, the focus of a School District (and, in turn, as above, its Board members) is and should continue to be to provide the best educational opportunities for ALL students and to support ALL students through, without limitation, academics (including literacy, STEM and other applicable standards), career and technical opportunities, extracurriculars and activities, and social and emotional needs and mental health supports, all in a safe and nurturing educational environment. Social and emotional needs and mental health supports are more important now than ever and must be fully supported.”

Children First Action Fund is a nonpartisan organization that works to ensure that all children, especially those burdened by poverty and adversity, have the best chance of reaching their full potential. We work on both sides of the aisle, in a non-partisan fashion, to help elected officials learn what it takes for children to succeed and persuade them to support our legislative measures. If you have any questions, please reach out to childrenmatteractionfund@gmail.com.