



## 2020 Kansas Legislative/State Board of Education Candidate Survey Questions

### 1. Outside Interest Groups

- a. If you wanted advice on proposed legislation regarding education or school finance, who would you ask for and why?
- b. What percentage of your individual contributions are from special interest groups? Please explain.

### 2. School Funding Formula

- a. Do you support the Kansas Constitution as it stands to protect the adequacy and equity of our public schools? Yes or No.
- b. How do you plan to assure equity of funding and resources for all Kansas public schools?
- c. Due to the potential lack of economic resources in 2020, what cuts are you willing to live with in education funding?

### 3. Tax Policy

- a. Do you have ideas for new or bolstered revenue streams to protect/support education funding?

### 4. Privatization and Private School Vouchers

- a. What is your position on school vouchers?
- b. What is your position on charter schools?
- c. What is your position on public education funds allocated during this economic crisis being used for private schools?

### 5. Impartiality vs. Propaganda

- a. Where do you get most of your news and sources [for education issues]? Social media (ie facebook, twitter and google) is not an appropriate answer.
- b. What would you do as a legislator to promote facts to the general public?

## **6. General**

- a. What are your thoughts on the quickly changing landscape of public education in relation to the coronavirus pandemic? What ideas do you have for ensuring our public schools can function at the highest level, especially if we must return to distance/online learning?
- b. What is the relationship between public education and the local economy?
- c. What is your involvement with public education in Kansas?
- d. Social justice issues are deeply connected to education. Explain your positions on wrap-around services and how they affect schools?
- e. The coronavirus pandemic has amplified student/family digital inequities within our state - what responsibility does the state of KS have in ensuring equity and access to virtual learning?
- f. Select five of the following priorities and rank them from 1-5 from most to least important to you as a legislator.
  - i. Bipartisanship
  - ii. Transparency
  - iii. Increased public school funding
  - iv. Fiscal responsibility
  - v. A strong moral compass
  - vi. School choice
  - vii. SPED funding
  - viii. Tax cuts
  - ix. Due process for teachers
  - x. Safe spaces in schools
  - xi. Social emotional learning
  - xii. Public health

## **2020 Kansas Legislative/State Board of Education Candidate Interview Questions**

### **1. General**

- a. Do you believe you can be pro-business while, at the same time, cut public education?
- b. What bill did you advocate for that best highlights your commitment to public education?
- c. We've seen the importance of coalition building. The Women's Bipartisan Caucus proved it in 2019. What is your background with coalition work and bringing people together to get the hard work accomplished?

## **2. Outside Interest Groups**

- a. Please explain your understanding of ALEC and its goals regarding public education.
- b. If you become personally attacked by outside interest groups, how will you handle it?

## **3. School Funding Formula**

- a. How would you vote on an amendment to bring the state up to its statutory obligation to pay 92% of special education costs?
- b. What are your thoughts on how to create a school funding formula that addresses the unique needs for districts both large and small, rural and urban? Could one comprehensive formula meet all needs? How does this balance with local school funding options?
- c. What is your definition of adequate support for all schools?

## **4. Tax Policy**

- a. How do you propose Kansas should balance its need for revenue and investment in education with the desire for less government oversight and fiscal conservatism?
- b. If Kansas has a large negative revenue forecast do you feel raising taxes would be wise or should less money be given to schools, infrastructure, social services?
- c. What changes should be made to the current tax structure in order to fully fund public schools?

## **5. Privatization and Private School Vouchers**

- a. How should school voucher effectiveness be measured?
- b. What is your position on charter school accountability?

## **6. Impartiality vs. Propaganda**

- a. How would you articulate the difference between propaganda and advertising?
- b. Please give several examples of appropriate sources to inform a fact-based opinion of public education.
- c. Social media plays a role in disseminating untruths. Explain how your personal and professional social media philosophy and how you avoid spreading “fake news.”

## **7. Anti-Racism**

- a. The learning gap between minority students and white students in the SMSD is an indicator of how systemic racism is affecting our students. How would you address these issues in the legislature/at the state board of education?
- b. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our SMSD schools moved to remote learning this past spring, and it is likely that we will have some sort of online learning component in the upcoming school year as well.
  - i. What inequities do you think have been made even more apparent with students learning at home?
  - ii. How would you address some of these issues as an elected official?

- c. What are your views in general on the reallocation of funds away from police budgets and towards social services, mental health, housing and education?
- d. What will you do as an elected official to increase the diversity in hiring and the allocation of contracts within the Kansas government, as well as create a more welcoming and diverse workforce that is attracted to living and raising a family in Kansas?