

School Board Candidate Survey

After soliciting feedback from the community over the past several months, we have created a questionnaire that we hope all school board candidates will complete, to better help ExeterPACT and our community understand where candidates stand on these important issues

Email *

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What are your reasons for running for school board this year? *

I believe that SAU16 has grown faster than ever anticipated and I want to be involved in the modernization of the education platform to reach a level of educational excellence that can rival any school system. I want to position the children of Exeter for success in a Global world and make education fun again!

What do you see as the main challenges facing the school district and what do you want to change? *

I think the primary challenge for the school district is recovering from a COVID challenged environment while also continuing to grow as a school community and recover the reputation for quality education that Exeter is known for. The best way to tackle any and all topics is through communication with all stakeholders (teachers, administrators, parents, students etc). I want to change how the board interacts with the community and only after those engagements can the board truly know where to focus their efforts. Anything short of that is speculation.

The School District Budget is always heavily discussed and debated. What changes are necessary to the budget and the budget process if any? *

I think the community needs to have more information on how the BAC, Administration and board arrived at a decision on each line item. The public is really only informed on final decisions with a little background on each line item. However, each line item was heavily debated. If the primary pros and cons that led to the decision on each line item were provided to the public, it would not only be helpful but would also provide a level of transparency that would reduce the time spent debating and rehashing what has already been discussed.

What is your opinion regarding the SAU16 policy responses to Covid and what, if anything, would you change? *

The public was surveyed as to their preferences for return to school last year, and the majority of the public was not heard. The public was given more excuses then solutions. Subsequent decisions have followed a similar pattern. The primary thing to change is again transparency in decision making and creative solutions and problem solving.

Why do you believe animosity has increased during in interactions between the school board, the administration, and the public, and how can the current climate be improved? *

Trust has been lost. The only way to regain trust is through actions and truth. The current climate can be changed through honest conversations and honest decision making. This can only be achieved through communication.

What would you use as a model to gauge academic success? *

I think we cannot even start to gauge academic success until we first focus on raising the bar on academic standards. One way I would gauge academic success would be the introduction of competitive curriculum that is being offered in local private schools and neighboring states. Two examples would be world language and keyboarding at the elementary level. When other children are receiving this education within this age group, success would be implementation of similar programming.

Would you support the addition of more teachers and para positions? *

Yes

No

Do you believe our SAU has the appropriate number of administrators? *

Yes

No

If elected, what approach will you take in responding to parents' questions and concerns as it relates to their children's educational experiences inside the classroom? *

First of all, responding is the first step. So many parents in this district have not been getting responses from their board members. I would promote engagement and encourage parents to offer solutions and present them at board meetings for discussion, and encourage discussion.

Do you see yourself primarily as a representative of the community or as a representative of the school system? *

- Representative of the community
- Representative of the school system

Are you committed to a yearly survey of families, students, community residents, and school staff about what they see as major strengths and shortcomings of the district and its schools? Are you committed to publicly sharing the results? *

- Yes I am committed to a yearly survey and yes I am committed to publicly sharing the results
- Yes I am committed to a yearly survey but I believe the surveys are information for the school board and administrators
- No I am not committed to a yearly survey
- Undecided

What makes you the most qualified person for the school board? *

I will speak up on behalf of all stakeholders in the community, I will not hold back in asking the hard questions. As a senior member of my organization professionally, I have managed global teams, cross functional projects, mentored and received extensive training on managing diverse teams, retaining talent, recognizing different working and personality styles and DEI. I am also a local parent of four seeking educational excellence for all of our children.

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