

## 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? \*

To improve the quality of education for our students by increasing collaboration among the Board, Administration, Educators and the Community, focusing all decisions on what is best for the students, and increasing transparency.

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

We are in the middle of the largest regression in learning any generation alive today has ever experienced in the US. We need to prioritize those actions and interventions that can directly impact the gaps in learning, while also recognizing and addressing the unprecedented stress and anxiety facing our children.

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

The trend toward higher unreserved fund balance each year suggests that the budget could be reduced without any change in the level of services provided. I have not undertaken a line by line analysis, but if elected I would certainly scrutinize the budget and determine where responsible cost savings might be achieved. I do not believe in ad hoc cuts to the budget based on the notion that lower enrollment mandates lower spending, particularly given the academic challenges our students face right now. However, I am mindful that SAU 16 budget comes from the hard earned funds of our tax payers, and must be managed responsibly.

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

With the benefit of hindsight, our students should have been in person full time beginning in the fall of 2020. The closures in March of 2020 were unavoidable and understandable. But keeping the large campuses closed until the Governor issued an Executive Order forcing a full return to school was the unconscionable result of the Administration and School Board executing a rigid Memorandum of Agreement in October 2020 that would not allow the large campuses to reopen even as new information emerged establishing the importance of in person learning, and that it could be accomplished safely. Fortunately, this mistake was not repeated this year. In general, I believe that all Covid policies and procedures need to be flexible, and need to be reevaluated as new information becomes available.

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? \*

Coming out of the past 1.5 years, I think many parents feel (correctly or not) that the School Board and Administration does not listen to the concerns raised by the community. It is frustrating to send emails or speak at meetings and feel like your views are not taken into consideration, and this frustration appears to be boiling over at some meetings. On the flip side, I think the School Board and Administration are feeling the effects of the last 1.5 years as well and feel stressed and underappreciated. If elected, I will sincerely listen to the various views and opinions expressed by the community, and in addition I will respond. We may not always agree, but we can at least agree to listen to each other respectfully and sincerely. In addition, I will act with transparency.

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

There is no perfect measure for this unfortunately. I think you need to look at the whole picture - what do standardized test scores look like, what do the average grades look like, and is there discordance between those two that might highlight issues? How are students doing during the major transition points - elementary to middle school and middle to high school? Are they as prepared as they need to be, or is there a drop in achievement from one stage of learning to the next? How are our students doing as they leave SAU 16 - are they succeeding in post-high school endeavors, whether in a trade, or a 2 or 4 year college? There is data readily available for each of those issues, and it will provide a more complete picture of whether we are succeeding in providing a high quality educational experience.

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? \*

As noted previously, I would welcome parents providing input about what is going well, and what is troubling or concerning.

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 am passionate about providing a high quality education for our students, and I will work hard to collaborate with all of the relevant stakeholders so that decisions are made taking into account various points of view with the best interests of the students in mind.

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