

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 *

rpjmarr@yahoo.com

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

As a parent of two children in school, I am passionate about education and the mental health for our children.

With a significant decrease in rankings at SAU16 over the past couple of years, and the decrease in education in our district we need to focus on bringing back academics to our children.

Mental health is at an all time high as well and our children's mental health is fragile. We need more than ever to look at the mental health of the children and the impact that this pandemic has had on the children.

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

The overall decline in enrollments and decline in our children's education. SAU16 used to be a top rated school in the district and although our taxes continue to rise our children's education and mental stability declines.

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

We need to look at the overall budget and how the budget continues to go up when there has been a 20% decrease in enrollments in the district. Also, unless you sit on a budget committee the budget can be confusing and hard to follow. If the budget process was explained clearly it might make it easier for a tax payer to follow which might eliminate all the back and forth during meetings.

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

After sending out surveys to parents to see what they wanted, the school board and superintendent went against the majority and decided school would be remote. If it were not for Governor Sununu for stepping in and making in person learning return, I am not sure school would have returned last year. I would change the fact that parents have no say and keeping kids masked for 7 hours per day is wrong.

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? *

The lack of transparency, communication, and respect between the school board and the public has created the animosity within our community. The public wants to be heard and respected and when they are not given a voice they become frustrated. At a school board meeting when the board or the superintendent cannot address a parent as they pour their heart out it's very disappointing. The board and superintendent need more compassion!

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

Standardized testing is how the schools look at academic success, but what about preparing kids for the real world? aligning standards and curriculum standards isn't all that public schools should do. They need to offer classes to prepare the children for the real world. Of course grades and GPA come into play but there is so much more that these kids need.

Looking at levels of retention and graduation statistics would also be an indicator as to how the schools are performing.

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? *

While I am not sure of my duty and not wanting to cross the line, I am thinking there might be a chain of command. I need to learn this, but as a board member I am there to service the parents, residents and children of our district. I would certainly make time to listen to any parent with concerns, but would have to let them know that this would need to be discussed with the other board members and possibly the superintendent. All I know is I am a parent and I have seen the lack of respect and compassion and I am the person who will always listen and have an open mind.

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 a parent in the community, care deeply about our children and their education and mental health. I will serve the community and the children and do what is in their best interest.

We should use Civility and we should be all one, one community, and whether or not we have differences, we should come together and work through them. At the end of the day it's all about our children.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

