

Bank of School Board Questions to Consider

1. Why are you running?
2. When a decision must be made that is not agreed upon by all stakeholders in the district, how will you decide who to listen to? How will you deal with those stakeholders who will be disappointed by your decision?
3. How responsive do you believe the school district should be to pressure from the community on curriculum matters?
4. What types of skills do you feel a school board member needs that you possess that will make you an effective board member?
5. What role do you see the Board playing?
6. What role does the Board play in attracting and retaining employees?
7. How do you see your role as a Board member in facilitating working with the Association?
8. *(CANDIDATES RUNNING AGAINST AN INCUMBENT):*
The seat you're running for is not an open seat – you're running against an incumbent. So what disagreements do you have with the current school board that made you decide to challenge the incumbent for this school board seat?
 - a. (if "none" ...then "So, why are you running if you think the current school board is doing fine?")
9. *(INCUMBENTS RUNNING FOR RE-ELECTION):* As a current school board member, what priorities would you like to see addressed in your next term, if elected, that the school board has yet to accomplish?
10. When a decision must be made that is not agreed upon by all stakeholders in the district, how will you decide who to listen to? How will you deal with those stakeholders who will be disappointed by your decision?
11. How responsive do you believe the school district should be to pressure from members of the community on curriculum matters? If some members of the community express concerns over potential controversies like books students must read, guest speakers who present information, or political issues to be discussed and debated, how should the school board and administration respond?
12. If a parent approaches you with concerns about his child's teacher's job performance, what would you do with that information?
13. How should the school district handle concerns the community and some parents may have about a teacher who comes out as gay, transitions to another gender, has a baby out of wedlock, or is Muslim?
14. What should the district do to increase safety for students and staff members?

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15. What do you see as the opportunities and challenges in this district?
16. In your view, what has the district done well over the past five years? What is something about the district that you would change?
17. In your past professional experience, what criteria do you use to make decisions about the effectiveness of a course of action? How will you use these criteria when making decisions as a school board member?
18. How will you build consensus and support in the community around the work of the school district?
19. What are the “outputs” that matter most to you when considering the effectiveness of the school district?
20. If elected, what specific experiences do you bring to the school board that would immediately make you a strong member?
21. What do you now believe to be the district’s greatest capital needs? How do you think those needs should be addressed?
22. What will you advise the district to do in order to attract and retain high-quality teachers?
23. What national and state trends in education do you believe the school district should consider embracing more? Are there any education trends you believe the school district should be wary of at this time?
24. School board candidates often mention a need for transparency in district decisions. What does “transparency” mean to you as a school board member?
25. What are the first three priorities you would take on as a school board member?

EXAMPLE OF A CANDIDATE-SPECIFIC QUESTION:

Mr. _____, you mention on your Facebook page that schools should “reflect the values of the community.” Who determines the values of the community when not everyone in a diverse community may share the same set of values?