

2019 School Board Candidate Assessment Topics and Questions for School Board Candidates

With the changes in collective bargaining law, the potential incursion of vouchers and other legislative challenges coming in the future, the role of school boards in our school districts is more important than ever. Their decisions impact not only the students and staff of their school district, but can impact their community as well. That makes it all the more important that we do what we can to ensure that those elected are indeed supportive of not only their school district, but also of public education in Iowa.

Below, please find some suggested topic areas of assessment. Please feel free to pick and choose from this list. Some questions may need to be altered to reflect the policies of your local district and local association.

COMMUNICATION

- Has the board member/candidate attended invitations to speak with the local association throughout their term/campaign?
- Has the board member/candidate responded to inquiries submitted by the local association?
- Has the board member/candidate encouraged the inclusion in the board agenda for presentations by the local association?
- Has the board member/candidate encouraged direct communication between educators and themselves except on issues of bargaining during the formal bargaining process?

ACTION ON ASSOCIATION POSITIONS

- Has/will the candidate support the negotiations process that maintains the provisions of the master contract and support a Labor/Management committee to address important issues that fall outside mandatory negotiations?
- Does the candidate support active involvement of the local association in issues such as the teacher quality committees, curriculum initiatives and support that educators are equals to administrators in the improvement of the learning environment?
- Is the candidate supportive of educational opportunity over property tax limitations?
- What presence does the candidate have on social media? Have they taken positions or made statements that could or would put them in opposition to the teachers and ESP as well as the Association?
- Is the candidate opposed to vouchers and other methods to use public tax dollars for private and religious schools?

MANAGEMENT STYLE

- Does the candidate support a positive school climate free of intimidation from administration?
- Is the candidate willing to annually review the administration and make it clear that the administration works at the pleasure of the board and that the board directs policy?
- Does the candidate support an increased role for educators in decisions that impact the classroom and their positions?

PARTICIPATION

- Has/will the candidate attend the majority of meetings and be active on ad hoc committees?
- Will the candidate be willing to continuously learn from all opportunities with educators, administration, teachers and education support professionals?
- Will the candidate always be engaged in issues and speak in a positive manner about the school, education, and educational professionals?
- Will the candidate always be willing to meet and engage with the local association?