

## **2019 School Board Candidate Interview Questions**

Below are suggested questions to ask school board candidates during candidate interviews. It is recommended to choose the questions that are most important and relevant to the local school district. Additional questions regarding local issues could also be added.

1. (CHALLENGER) Tell us a bit about yourself, your background/experience, and your connection and/or interest in the \_\_\_\_\_ Schools. What are your reasons for seeking a position on the Board?  
  
(INCUMBENT) What are your reasons for seeking reelection?
2. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses you see in our district?
3. What are some major issues that you believe our school district is currently facing? How would you like the district to deal with those issues?
4. What do you believe is the role of a school board member?
5. What is your perception of the current working and learning climate in our school district? Do you have any ideas on how to insure a positive working and learning climate is in our district?
6. Please provide your opinion on merit pay for teachers (linking a teacher's pay to student test scores).
7. What is your opinion of the new public employee bargaining law?
8. Do you support the salary schedule that was negotiated under the previous law that provides steps and lane movement for teachers?
9. Do you support maintaining a comprehensive master contract that includes all legal items that were previously included in the contract under the old collective bargaining law?
10. Do you support maintaining all benefits (including health insurance) that were bargained under the old law but are now excluded from bargaining?
11. Do you support having a Labor/Management committee consisting of District officials and Association members that meets to address issues of importance to both parties?
12. What role do the Fine, Applied, and Technical Arts play in the education of our students? Do you think our district currently provides enough support for those classes? Is it important to educate for the "whole child" or focus more on academics and basic skills?
13. How important is planning time for teachers in improving student learning? Do you think that teachers in our district have enough, too little, or too much planning time at elementary, middle, and high school levels?
14. Do you believe that teachers should have a greater input/voice in district decisions that impact their work and their students? If so, what would you support?

15. What criteria and processes should be used to choose or ban curricular materials?
16. What is your position on the use of “charter schools”? Do you think charter schools are an effective way to serve students?
17. Please address your opinion on allowing for-profit companies to provide online education in public schools.
18. How would you, as a school board member, act to buffer the negative effects of federal or state laws that would harm our students or impede our ability to educate them?
19. If necessary, where would you cut the school budget? What would you consider off-limits to budget cuts? Why?
20. Do you believe our Education Support Professionals deserve a living wage? Will you encourage the school board to support living wage legislation in the Iowa Legislature?
21. Please address your opinion on outsourcing jobs in our schools to for-profit companies.
22. What are your thoughts about \_\_\_\_\_ EA’s and ISEA’s role in the district?
23. Tell us about the current status of your campaign and future plans and strategies.
24. Why do you think our association should support you?