

2021 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 environment in our school district? Do you have any ideas on how to insure a positive working and learning environment 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 2017 changes to limiting Chapter 20, Iowa's public employee collective 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 pre-2017 collective bargaining law?
10. Do you support maintaining all benefits (including health insurance) that were bargained under the pre-2017 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. 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?
13. What criteria and processes should be used to utilize or prohibit curriculum and supporting materials?

14. Please provide your opinion on allowing for-profit companies to provide online education in public schools.
15. 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 and provide appropriate training to staff?
16. If necessary, where would you cut the school budget? What would you consider off-limits to budget cuts? Why?
17. 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? What steps will you take to ensure the district provides a living wage?
18. What did our district do to support staff and students during the COVID-19 pandemic in the 2020-2021 school year? What changes or modifications would you have made to the district's response to the pandemic?
19. As we look to the future, do you support following CDC recommendations for students and staff health and safety for in-person learning environments?
20. How will our district utilize the resources available to school districts in both state and federal COVID-19 relief packages? How should the district ensure educators and their union are engaged in these decisions?
21. What are your thoughts about _____EA's and ISEA's role in the district?
22. Tell us about the current status of your campaign and future plans and strategies.
23. Why do you think our association should support you?