

## 2023 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 ensure 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 educators?
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. SF 391- Passed and signed by Governor Reynolds allows school districts to hire public librarians in place of teacher librarians, offering flexibility to address shortages. Do you commit to supporting quality education professionals, including the employment of qualified teacher librarians throughout the district?
17. SF 391- Passed and signed by Governor Reynolds permits school districts to reduce offerings and teaching requirements for world languages from four sequential units to two. It also permits reducing required fine arts program units from three to two. Do you support maintaining pre-2023 session standards for world language and fine arts?
18. If necessary, where would you cut the school budget? What would you consider off-limits to budget cuts? Why?
19. 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?
20. What are your thoughts about \_\_\_\_\_EA's and ISEA's role in the district?
21. Tell us about the current status of your campaign and future plans and strategies.
22. Why do you think our association should support you?