

SUGGESTED CANDIDATE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What do you see as the basic purpose of the public schools? What is the role of the board of trustees in the fulfillment of that purpose?
2. What are you proud of in this district? What would you like to accomplish as a board member? Which is your highest priority, and why?
3. As a trustee, what do you see as your primary purpose or primary role? How would you fulfill that role, both as an individual and as a member of the governing board?
4. Describe a good board meeting. What are the objectives of a good board meeting?
5. What would you do if you believed administrators had not provided you with accurate and complete information for making a decision?
6. Describe your response if a parent cornered you in the grocery store and asked for your support on a particularly hot issue.
7. How does an effective school board ensure opportunities for parents and community members to express their diverse range of views to inform board deliberations on important policy issues?
8. Please summarize the strengths you would bring as a member of the board.
9. What will you do to become more effective as a board member?
10. Identify a recent board decision that you felt strongly about, and describe how you would balance community concerns, student needs, state and federal law, staff considerations, and your personal value and beliefs to determine how to vote on the issue.
11. What questions do you have for the board to help you prepare to take on this commitment if chosen?

EVALUATING THE CANDIDATE

Does the candidate:

- Know the political boundary and physical geography of the school district?
- Have the courage and ability to explain and enforce a role which might not be popular, but which is proper?
- Have a lay person's relationship to public education?
- Have personal interests that would be in conflict with his/her service to the board?
- Have a sense of humor?
- Make a habit of withholding judgment on critical issues until the facts are available?

Is the candidate:

- Seeking the position for personal prestige or political gain (personal agenda)?
- A leader in his/her own occupation or community group?
- A known quantity in the community?
- Able to think independently and objectively about a problem?
- Capable of recognizing and distinguishing the jurisdictional power and functions of the board and administration?
- Aware of the cross-currents of thinking pertaining to the basic concepts of public education?
- Able to carry on cheerfully when public appreciation of his/her efforts seem to be lacking?

Will the candidate:

- Remain loyal to his/her fellow trustees under stress?
- Work to develop unity among the members of the board, contributing to harmonious development of the program?
- Give the necessary time to this important position?

Has the candidate:

- An interest in the public schools, the community, and in every child?
- Arrived at a position of recognized leadership in the community?