



The following questions were emailed to candidates on February 10. Responses received by the deadline of February 20 are included in our evaluation. No edits were made to any responses.

Dave Long (District 200)

Do you believe your school's current Health Education curriculum should include age-appropriate sex education? What do you see as the strengths and/or areas needing improvement in this curriculum?

I believe the current curriculum is, for the most part, age-appropriate. As a parent, I am comfortable with what is being taught, and with this being part of District 200's health education program, do not think many changes are needed, nor do we need to adopt the National Sex Education Standard. And for those parents not comfortable with what is being taught, opt out options are available.

What is your position on the renewal of the Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program? Do you favor state tax credits or vouchers for use by families to send children to private schools? If so, how do you feel this will affect public schools?

I am not in favor of tax credits or vouchers for private school. My primary reason for my position is the learning gap that is likely to result for those who cannot afford private education, as even with credits or vouchers, there is likely to be a significant cost to attend a private school. As more kids go to private school, the cost per student for public school will increase, and with a decline in funding, critical programs will be cut from public education. The "Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program" is well intentioned and a good program. I do have the same concerns about the learning gap, and without knowing how much of the private education's tuition is covered by this program, am not sure of the impact of this program.

What, if any, is the role of the Board in the selection of materials for school libraries and curriculum development?

The Board does not have a role in the selection of materials of the libraries, but does set policy about the selection, and subsequent review of challenges. This is consistent with the Board role for oversight and governance. Those trained in education should, and do, make these decisions. The same goes for curriculum development. As a Board, we spend a lot of time, reviewing and understanding new curriculum, and changes to curriculum. We are given ample opportunity to understand, ask questions and challenge the Administration about curriculum, and again this is consistent with the Board role of oversight and governance.