



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.

Julie Hill (District 41)

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?

Yes, I think our public schools should provide developmentally appropriate, science-based sex education. My understanding is that areas with less science-based sex education have higher rates of teen pregnancy. I believe public schools should teach what is best for the public good. However, the administration- not the Board of Education- is responsible for assessing and recommending curriculum.

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?

Programs like Invest in Kids Scholarship Program only provide school choice to children whose families already had a choice without the tax break. Children whose families can not afford to send them to private school will still not have that choice. Using public dollars to fund private schools serves to defund and disinvest from public schools. Consequently, over time, public schools cut staffing and programming, leaving the children who are left with merely a shell of an education, and certainly no chance for enrichment or special services. With the support of my Board Colleagues, I have advocated for more public school funding for Pandemic mitigation, universal early childhood education, and capital funding grants. As an individual and as a Board member, I have been an advocate for public schools, and school voucher programs detract from them.

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

I mentioned this in question 1, but the administration- not the Board of Education- is responsible for assessing and recommending curriculum. After their research and review, they implement a pilot program within the schools. If they find the new curriculum to be successful, they recommend its purchase and adoption to the Board. At that point, the Board is responsible for approving the purchase, ensuring it is within budget. The Board monitors district performance through district-wide data points.