



School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

1. RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

On Behalf of the Healthi Kids Coalition, I write respectfully to request that you respond to questions submitted below regarding your agenda for the young children and their families living in the Rochester Community. The Healthi Kids Coalition, in partnership with the Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute Alumni are exploring your platform during this election period.

The **Healthi Kids Coalition** is a grassroots community coalition and initiative of Common Ground Health that advocates for healthier more active kids in the City of Rochester and Monroe County. Our change agenda calls for healthier food in schools, 60 minutes of in-school physical activity, safer places to play, walkable, bikeable, accessible communities, and healthy foods in neighborhoods.

The **Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI)** supports and trains parents to become leading advocates for children. The PLTI Alumni group seeks to improve the lifelong health, safety, and learning of children through systems change by supporting parents who lead in the Greater Rochester community.

The questions and answers, if received in time, will be published verbatim following analysis by the Healthi Kids Coalition and the Parent Leadership Institute Alumni team. We request that you full response not exceed 75 words per question. If you do not respond the publication will state "Did Not Respond". If questions are left blank, the publication will state "No response".

To meet our publication deadline, your responses must be received by no later than **Friday, August 18, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**. Please send your responses to the Healthi Kids Coalition at info@healthikids.org

As a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we cannot support or oppose any candidate for public office. Your answers are to inform the community on where you stand on the whole health of each child in the City of Rochester.

We hope that you will take opportunity to communicate your views on how you as a member of Rochester community seeking public office deal with policy and investments regarding young children and their families.

If you have any questions, or comments, please reach out to Erick Stephens at 585.224.3112

1. Tell us who you are!

Name

Email Address



2. Kids Physical Health

With competing priorities, school districts across the country are finding it increasingly difficult to ensure that students are receiving the appropriate amount of physical activity during the school day as well as consistent health education. As childhood obesity continues to rise due to sedentary behavior and lack of basic knowledge about healthy eating, today's youth could live shorter lives than their parents.

The School Board's main authority rests in the creation and adoption of Board Policies and Regulations. Currently RCSD has a policy that mandates 20 minutes of daily active recess for every child. Parents have voiced their concerns about the lack of daily recess at their children's school.

2. What will you do as School Board Commissioner to ensure the recess policy is enforced at a district-wide level; and at your assigned schools?

3. What will you do as a School Board Commissioner to ensure that recess is not taken away as a form of punishment for behavior or academic reasons?

Health education plays a critical role in ensuring that our students gain the skills and knowledge to maintain lifelong health. Not only do students learn the importance of maintaining physical health but they also learn key skills such as positive decision-making, problem solving, and communication that supports them in all arenas of their lives. Numerous studies have shown that healthier kids learn better - and health education contributes to making healthy choices. Yet, many of our students do not receive adequate health education at the elementary level due to resource constraints.

4. How will you as a School Board Commissioner make sure that children are receiving adequate health education in elementary schools?

5. Often health and physical activity takes a backseat to other core subjects. As School Board Commissioner, how will you support the Department of Health, Physical Education and Athletics to ensure all kids in the district have the opportunity to thrive?

Students spend much of their time at school and may eat as many as two or three meals and a snack during the school day and after school. Nutritious meals in school ensure that kids are getting the fruits, vegetables, and nutrients they need to succeed. Rochester City School District is a community-eligible district in which all students are eligible for free school breakfast and lunch. However, the current reimbursement limits the potential for innovation to improve the quality of school meals.

6. Do you support an increase of funding to RCSD Department of Nutrition and Food Services? If yes, what specific innovations or programs would you push forward to ensure every child has access to healthy school meals and snacks?



3. Kids Social Emotional Health

As school districts across the country continue to recognize the growing role social emotional learning plays in achieving academic success and improved graduation rates - many have come to recognize the critical role for school districts to support not only the academic, but also the social emotional development of our children. Issues students face in their home environments such as poverty, trauma, hunger, violence and domestic abuse all can take a toll on their ability to succeed. A student who is not healthy in mind as well as body cannot be expected to be present and ready to learn in a classroom.

7. What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

8. As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?



4. Parent and Family Engagement

Evidence shows that authentic parent and family engagement in schools leads to increased student achievement, lowers absenteeism, and helps to foster improved parent confidence in their children's school.

9. What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

10. What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?











11. With the lack of neighborhood schools, parent and family engagement can often be a challenge. As the community school model gains popularity among RCSD families - where do you stand on the issue of community schools?



5. Priorities

Please rank the following priorities.

12. Prioritize the following "10" polices, programs, and budget priorities using the numbers 1-10.

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|  | <input type="text"/> | Create policies to ensure diversity in the district workforce (I.e. From building level staff, teachers, and those at Central Office). |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Ensure all Pre-K to 2nd grade classrooms in the districts have access to and implement a play based curriculum. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Ensure all paraprofessionals and parent liaisons receive professional development appropriate to their role. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Increase funding for culturally appropriate and trauma informed professional development for all social workers and teachers. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Develop a school board policy that commits to hiring parents and communicates volunteer opportunities to parents. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Allocate funding to modernize and install water bottle fillers in every school. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Require universal participation in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Promote community use of schools through smart design as part of building modernization. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Create a policy that prohibits the marketing of unhealthy foods on any district property. |
|  | <input type="text"/> | Promote the development of school vegetable garden programs to teach nutrition education and develop lifelong healthy habits. |