

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

COMPLETE

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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

Name

Sabrina Lamar

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Awakeateacher@gmail.com

Page 2: Kids Physical Health

Q2 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?

Recess is important to our student's health and academic success. Because we should "inspect what we expect," when the board conferences with principals each week it must work with them to ensure that that the recess and wellness policies are enforced and frowned upon the issuance of waivers to these policies. In addition, as we continue to modernize our schools I will advocate that each school has safe and secure equipment and space.

Q3 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?

The board must continue to create policies that hands our teachers other methods of interventions so that the loss of recess is not a punishment for "childhood mischief" or academic reasons. We must continue to build on the new Code of Conduct and ensure that our teachers are trained in these policies.

Q4 How will you as a School Board Commissioner make sure that children are receiving adequate health education in elementary schools?

Once more, the board must "inspect what it expects." Each school is required to provide health education to our students and board members must use conferences with principals and the time spent with liaison schools to ensure this much-needed tool will happen. With the amount of trauma our students experience, increase incidences of STD's, pregnancies, obesity, and other health issues at earlier ages, health education must happen in each of our schools.

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Q5 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?

See the answer to question #4. In addition, we must ensure that our certified health education instructors (who are required in our secondary schools) receive professional development on issues that children in an area with a high concentration of poverty face and have partnerships with nonprofits in areas of health, trauma, etc. One cannot teach what one does not know.

Q6 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?

It's often cheaper to purchase junk food than healthier options. So in an area with a high concentration of poverty, our children are exposed to non-nutritious meals on a consistent basis. Therefore, our schools must be the model and provide nutritious meals and snacks, teach our students nutrition, and increase partnerships with area nonprofits, like Foodlink, to provide our students these resources.

Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

Research from RIT's Center for Public Safety Initiatives shows that children raised in the crescent will have experienced over 600 murders within one mile of their home before that child reaches 15. It is imperative that we address student trauma that creates roadblocks to student success. We must provide needed social supports to our students, continue to build upon the code of conduct, and incorporate trauma informed practices when we teach.

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

Rochester has numerous nonprofits, social services, and faith institutions that have a vested interest in the success of our students. For example, I am a volunteer with a nonprofit, Rise Up Rochester (RUR), Inc., who sends parents of homicide victims and others who have been impacted with violence into classrooms to share their stories and help students deal with their trauma. In addition, RUR has a billboard contest where students submit artwork that promotes nonviolence, crime reporting, and healthy decision making. Programs like this must be supported in our school district.

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

Q9 What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

The African Proverb contends, "it takes a village to raise a child." In numerous cultures, one's household is more than one's mother, father, brothers, and sisters. But the village includes Grandparents, aunts, uncles, pastors, faith institutions, coaches, etc. We must provide opportunities for the village participate in student success. For example, in Schenectady, NY, the ministerial alliance was asked to send volunteers into schools just to be a presence which in turn help to decrease incidents of childhood mischief. We must find creative methods for the village to participate in student success.

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Q10 What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?

It is important that the Office of Parent Engagement is fully staffed, properly funded, and receives the needed support in order to do their jobs.

Q11 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?

It is important that we ensure that all of our schools are successful and each school has an environment where parents and the "village" are welcomed.

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Q12 Prioritize the following "10" polices, programs, and budget priorities using the numbers 1-10. (1 being the highest, 10 being the lowest)

Create policies to ensure diversity in the district workforce (I.e. From building level staff, teachers, and those at Central Office).

2

Ensure all Pre-K to 2nd grade classrooms in the districts have access to and implement a play based curriculum.

8

Ensure all paraprofessionals and parent liaisons receive professional development appropriate to their role.

3

Increase funding for culturally appropriate and trauma informed professional development for all social workers and teachers.

1

Develop a school board policy that commits to hiring parents and communicates volunteer opportunities to parents.

4

Allocate funding to modernize and install water bottle fillers in every school.

10

Require universal participation in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program.

6

Promote community use of schools through smart design as part of building modernization.

9

Create a policy that prohibits the marketing of unhealthy foods on any district property.

7

Promote the development of school vegetable garden programs to teach nutrition education and develop lifelong healthy habits.

5

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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

Name

Beatriz LeBron

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Page 2: Kids Physical Health

Q2 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?

I would work with the leading administrators in my assigned schools to ensure that the policy is being followed and if not then find out from them directly, why not. I don't believe you can enforce any policy across schools without taking into account the schools environment and culture therefore solutions to work in collaboration with schools, for me, can't fully be addressed without the school's inputs.

Q3 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?

We want children to have access to daily physical activity but if you have a child that is not behaving and that is impacting other students and then that child is allowed to go out without consequences then that creates other issues too. I believe to be fair that there should be an alternative answer for the staff that has to implement this. maybe what this looks like is that recess for that child is with another class, or with younger kids & allow them to lead an activity with them (e.g jumping jacks game, or incorporate a restorative justice practice)

Q4 How will you as a School Board Commissioner make sure that children are receiving adequate health education in elementary schools?

Maybe during lunch weekly, biweekly and/or monthly they are getting health lessons in schools. Like a kid's brown bag lunch series. For me none of these things are even remotely possible if 1-as a board commissioner I don't build relationships with everyone in my assigned schools, 2- get their buy in and support, and 3 ensure that the feedback they give me is received back by me and reflected back to them in supports they may need to make this happen for their school.

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Q5 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?

We need a central location of information for sports activities for the district there is an entire department and many families still go all school year unaware of the opportunities (some district wide and not only specifically for one school) I have a technology plan that I would like to implement for schools that would include an area for physical activities, resources, and sports offerings.

Q6 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?

Yes I do support increased funding to the Nutrition and Food Services department. Let's start as a community pushing back to the states on serving Milk at every meal- it doesn't align with what the medical community states for children after 2 years-old. Kids should have filtered and cold water for at every meal in schools. Let's be creative in how we serve certain fruits and vegetables. Steam isn't always tasty to kids, baked and roasted veggies bring out flavors.

Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

I would need to fully examine what has already been done, tried, failed and why before I can answer this question fully. Because it is my belief now that we tend to throw a lot of money at ideas and models that don't work for our community. However I do support trauma informed practices as we know our children are seeing it, experiencing it and so are their families. So we have to support them in all aspects so that they have a fighting chance.

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

This is one of the key parts of my platform is realigning strategically resources and partners that families have an individual plan of support, access and resources. We address poverty head on and we support our children both in and out of the schools so that when they are in a classroom both themselves and the teacher can focus on learning. These family support plans will incorporate restorative justice practices and be people centered.

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

Q9 What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

I am not looking at following models that won't work for this community. However I do believe that Buffalo has a similar idea to what I would like to implement here with family support and Marietta GA as well has an element as well. As they have an outreach effort that includes the entire staff of a school reaching out to every family in person by going door to door.

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Q10 What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?

Parent engagement should be the office of family engagement especially when 33% of the students are being raised by a family member. I would like to see this office more active and engaged and I would see find out from the staff what have been barriers for them and see how I can be of support to them to remove those barriers.

Q11 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?

I support community schools but we must be careful that as a result we don't concentrate poverty in some school even further. We also have to ensure parents have viable choices in their zones. Community schools have the opportunity to make an impact in outcomes for students but it is critical that those positioned in these schools are also reflective and have a deep understanding of the community they are serving. Again it's about balance.

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Q12 Prioritize the following "10" polices, programs, and budget priorities using the numbers 1-10. (1 being the highest, 10 being the lowest)

Create policies to ensure diversity in the district workforce (I.e. From building level staff, teachers, and those at Central Office).

3

Ensure all Pre-K to 2nd grade classrooms in the districts have access to and implement a play based curriculum.

4

Ensure all paraprofessionals and parent liaisons receive professional development appropriate to their role.

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Increase funding for culturally appropriate and trauma informed professional development for all social workers and teachers.

1

Develop a school board policy that commits to hiring parents and communicates volunteer opportunities to parents.

6

Allocate funding to modernize and install water bottle fillers in every school.

5

Require universal participation in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program.

7

Promote community use of schools through smart design as part of building modernization.

8

Create a policy that prohibits the marketing of unhealthy foods on any district property.

10

Promote the development of school vegetable garden programs to teach nutrition education and develop lifelong healthy habits.

9

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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

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Natalie Sheppard

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Page 2: Kids Physical Health

Q2 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?

I will make sure that I am actively working with my fellow Commissioners and school Principals to ensure that we are holding each school to the expectation of the recess policy. If there are logistical factors that need readjustment in regards to implementation I will make sure that I am consistently getting updates on the impact of recess and if there are areas of improvement with scheduling or implementation.

Q3 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?

I will ensure that I advocate for effective policy fulfillment surrounding recess. I do not believe recess should be taken away as a form of punishment and will advocate to ensure that recess is taken just as serious as any other academic class.

Q4 How will you as a School Board Commissioner make sure that children are receiving adequate health education in elementary schools?

I will make sure that children are receiving adequate health education by working with school administrators and teachers to develop a curricula for health education that is age appropriate and effective for student learning.

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Q5 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?

As a School Board Commissioner I will advocate at the State and local municipal levels for ensuring that every child that has the necessary resources to have a high quality experience with Health and Physical education, and athletics. There are resource barriers that exist that I will work to eliminate so that every child has sufficient support. When it comes to learning social skills, I think it is extremely important for every child to have the best resources to participate in Physical Education and athletics.

Q6 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?

I support an increase in funding for Nutrition and Food Services. I would push collaboration with Foodlink. I would like to make each school a Farmers' Market location to further push efforts of families having a sense of community and relationship with their child(ren)'s school.

Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

I would like to introduce a mandatory student course or training. Often times a child does not understand what trauma is or how it affects their learning. I think we not only need to educate staff in this area, but also our students. If students become more aware of how home environment issues can affect their learning I think it would be more effective to work on coping strategies to assist with them being the best student and person they can be.

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

I would leverage existing community resources to support the social and emotional health of all kids by making sure each school has a community resource center where families can be provided with information about different community resources that may be of assistance to their needs.

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

Q9 What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

I would like Rochester to be a model for other districts by strengthening parent lead groups such as PLTI and PTA. We have many parents and caregivers in our community that want to be actively involved in our district and after I rebuild the trust of leadership with our families I would like to see a heightened effort to have meaningful engagement.

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Q10 What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?

I will support the Office of Parent Engagement by ensuring that the resources they need to support in optimal engagement are provided. I will also be available to assist at different events they may want to have. I think it is important that I am hands on with their efforts to actively engage families.

Q11 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?

I believe that community schools will help with the efforts of parent engagement and neighbor relationship building. This will subsequently can assist with families having a boost in a sense of belonging and pride in their neighborhoods.

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Q12 Prioritize the following "10" polices, programs, and budget priorities using the numbers 1-10. (1 being the highest, 10 being the lowest)

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Develop a school board policy that commits to hiring parents and communicates volunteer opportunities to parents.

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Create a policy that prohibits the marketing of unhealthy foods on any district property.

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Promote the development of school vegetable garden programs to teach nutrition education and develop lifelong healthy habits.

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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

Name

Cynthia Elliott

Email Address

cynthiaelliott1938@yahoo.com

Page 2: Kids Physical Health

Q2 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?

I need to have further information before I can state what I will do.

Q3 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?

I need to have further information before I can state what I will do.

Q4 How will you as a School Board Commissioner make sure that children are receiving adequate health education in elementary schools?

I would have to take this under further study.

Q5 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?

Don't have an answer for this at this point.

Q6 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?

Have not studied this issue sufficiently enough to give a comprehensive answer.

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

Q9 What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

Respondent skipped this question

Q10 What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?

Respondent skipped this question

Q11 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?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 5: Priorities

Q12 Prioritize the following "10" policies, programs, and budget priorities using the numbers 1-10. (1 being the highest, 10 being the lowest)

Respondent skipped this question

From: Cynthia Elliott [mailto:cynthiaelliott1938@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 10:54 AM
To:
Subject: Re: Reminder to complete candidate questionnaire from Healthi Kids/PLTI

Unfortunately I cannot respond to the questions with fidelity.

Cynthia Elliott
Vice President
Rochester Board of Education
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Rochester, NY 14614
585-262-8175
cynthiaelliott1938@yahoo.com

On Tuesday, August 15, 2017 10:49 AM, McLauchlin <cmclauc1@rochester.rr.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Elliott,

On Behalf of the Healthi Kids Coalition and the Greater Rochester Parent Leadership Training Institute (PLTI), we are writing to thank you for starting to fill out our candidate questionnaire. This is a gentle reminder to complete your responses, using the link below, no later than **Friday, August 18, 2017 at 12:00 noon**. We are eager to let voters know your agenda for young children and families in the Rochester Community.

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 PLTI. We request that your full response not exceed 75 words per question. If you do not respond, the publication will state "Did not Response", if you do not complete the questionnaire, the publication will state "Skipped Question/No Response".

You can complete the questionnaire online here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Q8JBC5P>

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017



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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

Name

Van Henri White

Email Address

van.white@thelegalbrief.com

Page 2: Kids Physical Health

Q2 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?

On September 26, 2013, my colleagues and I amended our Wellness Policy to include the language requiring daily recess (at least twenty minutes a day). Accordingly, I have a vested interest in seeing that this particular policy is enforced.

I have not heard parents complain of the lack of daily access. However, that does not mean that this is not a problem. I will share this concern with our Superintendent. I am certain that it would be helpful to her if you could identify schools in which this is happening.

Additionally, when the Wellness Policy was created one of goals was to create a Wellness Council at every school. Accordingly, once these schools are identified, the Superintendent and the BOE should discuss this concern with Wellness Councils in these particular schools. Who better to offer insights as to why the recess policies are not being adhered to in these schools than the School Wellness Councils. I would not be surprised that in the schools where the recess policy is not being adhered to, that these are also the schools where a school based Wellness Council does not exist.

This is sadly a "phenomenon" (failure to comply with BOE policy) that occurs all to frequently. Consequently, since becoming President of the BOE, I have implemented a process whereby the BOE Policy Committee and the BOE Leadership team ensures greater accountability by requiring that the Superintendent provide periodic updates to ensure all policies are being implemented with fidelity - including 5405.50 B. 2. which requires annual reporting on request by principals to waive recess requirements.

Q3 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?

There is presently a proposed change pending which would amend Board Policy 5404.50 so that it would be understood that recess is not allowed to be taken away from any students as a form of punishment. I support this change.

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Q4 How will you as a School Board Commissioner make sure that children are receiving adequate health education in elementary schools?

As you have indicated one of the BOE's principle functions is to create and enforce policies that allow the District to operate in an effective, safe, and equitable manner. In terms of health education, Section 5405.60 (a) ensures that District elementary students receive health education consistent with State Law. As state law and BOE requires that health education "be taught by the regular classroom teachers", of course, we rely heavily upon building principals to ensure that the required health instruction is being provided.

Q5 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?

See response to Question Np. 2.

Q6 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?

Yes. Research tells us that the type of breakfast a child has before going off to school is critical to a child's success throughout the balance of the school day. Children who start their day eating cereals high in sugar content frequently struggle to make it through the day. Accordingly, for our children who do not eat breakfast at school, I would support a public education campaign (directed at our RCSD families) encouraging not only healthy dietary choices at breakfast but throughout the rest of the day.

Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

Having represented the family of the only student murdered on R.C.S.D. school grounds (Stephne Givens) and also having served as an Assistant District Attorney, I am familiar with the trauma that many of our City families and students experience. Accordingly, knowing the importance of having effective mental health programs and staff in place, I pushed back against budgetary reduction in our mental health staffing. More recently, as President of the BOE, I have successfully pushed for the expansion of social workers within the District and at the EPO at East High School. In addition, I have supported the development and expansion of community based schools. School like No. 17 serves as a wonderful example of what can be accomplished by incorporating and integrating all types of service providers (including mental health providers) into a school community. In fact, the Superintendent and I (along with a team of other community leaders) will be traveling this week to Atlanta, GA to look at their community schools and how they address matters such as poverty, hunger, community and domestic violence. We hope to return to Rochester with some best practices which will help us address some of these challenges.

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

See response to Question No. 7.

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Q9 What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

While we still have our challenges, I believe that we already have some practices that engage our parents at various levels. For example: (i) we currently have parent representation on the Board's five Committees (Policy, Finance, Governance, Audit, Intergovernmental Relations) (ii) the BOE now regularly monitors School Based Planning Teams to ensure that such teams are active and involve the required number of parents. (iii) since becoming BOE President, I have added reports from our Parent Advisory Council and the Bilingual

Council to the agenda of our monthly BOE business meeting. Notwithstanding the fact that these efforts have facilitated parent and family engagement, the RSCD should always be looking for other effective practices in the area of parent and family engagement. And we have done that. For example, the BOE has retained a vendor to develop a smart phone app that will allow parents to get real time information on their child's attendance, critical test scores, etc.

Q10 What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?

See response to Question No. 9. In addition, since becoming BOE President, I have not missed a single major event sponsored by the Office of Parent Engagement - e.g. Strong Start, etc. In addition, one of the Office of Parent Engagement's major functions is to support the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). In support of those efforts, I regularly attend PAC meetings and coordinate the BOE's response with that of the Office of Parent Engagement, and the Office of the Superintendent.

Q11 With the lack of neighborhood schools, parent and family engagement can often be a challenge. As the community school model gains popularity among RSCD families - where do you stand on the issue of community schools?

As indicated previously, RSCD is seriously contemplating the expansion of the community and neighborhood schools approach education. For example, over the last several months we passed three BOE resolutions which move us further in that direction. One resolution requires that our Superintendent look more broadly into the issue of school choice, managed choice, and community schools. That study is due by December 2017. Depending on the recommendations, the BOE is expected to take further action. The second resolution authorized the EPO at East to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Office to create a K-12 neighborhood school pipeline between No. 33 and East High School. This MOA will result in a level of coordination between an elementary and high school (in terms of community based services, placement, professional development and curriculum) that has not been seen in decades in our District. The third (and most recent) resolution called for the creation of a true neighborhood school at No. 17. This resolution does this by restricting (over a period of time) the students who are allowed to attend No. 17. to students and families who live in the neighborhood surrounding No. 17 school. It is believed that this approach will let us know whether this approach is an effective manner for advancing the goals and objectives of our District, staff, families, and scholars.

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

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Create policies to ensure diversity in the district workforce (I.e. From building level staff, teachers, and those at Central Office).

1

Ensure all Pre-K to 2nd grade classrooms in the districts have access to and implement a play based curriculum.

2

Ensure all paraprofessionals and parent liaisons receive professional development appropriate to their role.

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Increase funding for culturally appropriate and trauma informed professional development for all social workers and teachers.

3

Develop a school board policy that commits to hiring parents and communicates volunteer opportunities to parents.

6

Allocate funding to modernize and install water bottle fillers in every school.

8

Require universal participation in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program.

9

Promote community use of schools through smart design as part of building modernization.

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Create a policy that prohibits the marketing of unhealthy foods on any district property.

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Promote the development of school vegetable garden programs to teach nutrition education and develop lifelong healthy habits.

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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

Name

Cecilia G. Golden, Ph.D.

Email Address

cgoldenleads@gmail.com

Page 2: Kids Physical Health

Q2 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?

The way in policies are effectively implemented is through appropriate monitoring and accountability systems. The daily schedules will reflect the agreed upon time for recess.

Q3 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?

The policy should be clear that recess is neither a reward for "good behavior" nor can it be taken away as a punishment. It is developmentally appropriate and is part of a child's learning and growth program.

Q4 How will you as a School Board Commissioner make sure that children are receiving adequate health education in elementary schools?

NY State mandates the number of physical education classes as well as the amount of time for every grade level. A school district cannot cut physical education classes to address budget concerns.

Q5 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?

I would ensure that the department of Health and Physical Education as all other subject area departments. If other departments have director oversight, the Health and PE would have one. Professional development would be provided by the director for teachers of Health and PE, just as social studies, math, science, etc. do for theirs.

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Q6 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?

Without a review and analysis of the budget pertaining to nutrition and food, I could not say whether an increase in funding is needed. I think it's important to look at how the funds are being used. Equally important to find out is what are the foods currently being purchased; who reviews and approves the menus; who sets the standards for the quality and meals provided to students; and who is held accountable?

Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

Q9 What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

Respondent skipped this question

Q10 What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?

Respondent skipped this question

Q11 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?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 5: Priorities

Q12 Prioritize the following "10" policies, programs, and budget priorities using the numbers 1-10. (1 being the highest, 10 being the lowest)

Respondent skipped this question

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

Name

cgolden

Email Address

cgolden@hillside.com

Page 2: Kids Physical Health

Q2 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?

Respondent skipped this question

Q3 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?

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Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

Grant opportunities and collaborative relationships with business entities that promote nutrition would be pursued.

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

Q9 What models for parent and family engagement have you seen in similar districts across the country that you would like to bring to Rochester?

Joyce Epstein has written about effective ways to engage parents. Engaging with parents in the ways in which they desire to participate is key. One strategy is to go to where the parents are. Schools can hold meetings in local libraries, community centers. Providing parents with experiences that they have identified as important to them is essential. Further, connecting with parents before there is a problem with their child is very effective.

Q10 What will you do as School Board Commissioner to support the Office of Parent Engagement to adopt and implement your ideas?

I would hope that the Office of Parent Engagement has its own ideas as well. It's less important to me for my ideas to be implemented. Rather, I would want agreed upon objectives met through creative, meaningful means.

Q11 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?

Community schools, schools that have memoranda of agreement with dental and medical agencies are very helpful in urban centers. Such schools recognize that many students do not have access to quality healthcare.

Page 5: Priorities

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Q12 Prioritize the following "10" polices, programs, and budget priorities using the numbers 1-10. (1 being the highest, 10 being the lowest)

Create policies to ensure diversity in the district workforce (I.e. From building level staff, teachers, and those at Central Office).

2

Ensure all Pre-K to 2nd grade classrooms in the districts have access to and implement a play based curriculum.

3

Ensure all paraprofessionals and parent liaisons receive professional development appropriate to their role.

8

Increase funding for culturally appropriate and trauma informed professional development for all social workers and teachers.

1

Develop a school board policy that commits to hiring parents and communicates volunteer opportunities to parents.

5

Allocate funding to modernize and install water bottle fillers in every school.

9

Require universal participation in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program.

4

Promote community use of schools through smart design as part of building modernization.

10

Create a policy that prohibits the marketing of unhealthy foods on any district property.

7

Promote the development of school vegetable garden programs to teach nutrition education and develop lifelong healthy habits.

6

#11

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Page 1: RCSD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Q1 Tell us who you are!

Name

cecilia golden

Email Address

cgoldenleads@gmail.com

Page 2: Kids Physical Health

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Page 3: Kids Social Emotional Health

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2017

Q7 What specific programs or funding would you introduce to provide trauma informed practices in the Rochester City School District?

The District should assess to see the level of understanding that staff members have regarding trauma and ensure that professional development is provided to address the gaps. In addition, clinicians should be in schools where they can provide counseling and support to students.

Q8 As School Board Commissioner, how would you leverage existing community resources to support the social emotional health of all kids in the district?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 4: Parent and Family Engagement

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Page 5: Priorities

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