

School Board Candidate Questionnaire – Rhonda Guidroz

1

Even though I have business experience, my experience in dealing with really complicated budgets like that of the school board has come in the past 2+ years I have been on the board. The chief administrative officer (Superintendent) has the responsibility of preparing and proposing the annual budget to the board. After carefully reviewing and comparing it to prior budgets, questions and concerns are directed to the Superintendent, Director of Finance, Finance Committee Chairman and other board members. The submitted budget must be made available to the School Board and the public for inspection 15 days prior to the date of adoption. The budget is reviewed again by the Director of Finance at the committee meeting prior to presentation for approval at the regularly scheduled board meeting.

Budgets that result in no deficit spending, are properly formatted, meet mandated state allocations of MFP requirements, contain adequate reserves, meet guidelines for weighted funding, and federal funding and expenditures, and “good” budgets meet the needs of the district.

#2

School Board Members must make a more concerted effort to utilize every possible resource to make all members of the community aware of the importance of a solid education for the future of our children and the vitality of our community. A quality educational system is one of the first considerations of business and industry looking to locate in the area, and school board members who work cooperatively and in partnership with other community organizations and governmental agencies to educate the more conservative citizens of the importance of supporting our children. To prove ourselves accountable we must prudently utilize our tax dollars.

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#3

Even though there is much, much more to do, the district has continued to show impressive improvement over the past five years. We have increased graduation rates, increased opportunities for students with disabilities, for African-American students and the economically disadvantaged students. We have improved from a “C” district to a “B” district. Higher percentages of graduates are earning either an NSU dual enrollment credit or an industry based credential. We continue to experience ACT growth. Our Title I Federal Program moved from high-risk to a low-risk category. Our ACT Assessment index has also shown an increase. All of the schools in our district have made or now have the funding to make much need renovations and upgrades that are so desperately needed. City schools have been banded to provide more equitable opportunities for students and teachers. Our dedicated teachers, administration, and support staff continue to work hard to educate and provide opportunities for all our children.

(I have attached a copy of “NPSB Evidence of Success and Continued Growth” for more examples of improvement)

We have done poorly in advocating for renewed priority of State Funding for the Minimum Foundation Program to align an accurate cost for educating children in our modern society. No increase in this funding has led to a higher percentage of cost passed on to local school districts. We also need to push for more flexibility in implementing State and Federal education laws that govern teaching methods and curricula, testing, and control of fiscal resources.

#4

Among board members there must be compromise, open communication and willingness to put the needs of all children in the district ahead of any personal agendas.

#5

Protocol is different for each situation. After determining what problems exist, matters between students, teachers and parents should be first dealt with at the school. If no satisfactory agreement is reached, the matter should be referred to the superintendent and H.R. for resolution. Maintenance problems should be directed to the Superintendent and Director of Finance. The board member to whom the problem was reported should follow up to see that the matter has been resolved. Board members may be asked to resolve certain issues, but the role of the board is to make policies that govern how schools operate – not “micro-manage” day-to-day activities.

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#6

The goals as set forth by the A+ Coalition are definitely attainable if we can get the support we need from our state and local government and from our community as a whole.