

Jefferson County Republican Club School Board Questionnaire

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(Expand the sections below as needed to provide your answers)

What School District are you running for Board Member? Festus R6 as the only incumbent.

How long have you lived in the school district? 39 yrs

Do you have or have had children attend a school in the District? Yes, 1 child currently a Senior, One that graduated in 2020, and one that went through 9th grade then transferred to a private school.

What is your opinion on the mask mandate and why? I believe any mask mandate is an overreach of power. Masks are something that should be the decision of the individual .

If you oppose the mask mandate, what is your plan? I will continue to vocalize my stance that the decision to wear a mask should be left to the individual.

What is your opinion on the mandatory mask requirement and why? I oppose mandatory mask requirements.

If you oppose mandatory mask requirement, what is your plan? My plan is the same as previously stated. Vocalize my opposition and vote against any mandatory mask mandated in the district.

What is your opinion on mandatory school shutdown and quarantine of children and why? I can only speak on the experience that I have had throughout the pandemic serving on the Festus School Board. Mandatory quarantines for "close contact" cases just penalizes healthy students and has forced unnecessary stress on the families of these individuals. If a student is showing symptoms of any sickness, stay home once those symptoms are gone, come back to school.

If you oppose mandatory school shutdown and quarantine of children, what is your plan? If we are no longer forcing quarantines on healthy students and staff, there is no danger of a school shutdown due to staff shortages.

What is your view on CRT and why? I oppose CRT 100%. Making children feel ashamed of their skin color, no matter what that color is is the definition of racism. I am appalled that any educator would think this is something that is acceptable to be in any curriculum.

If you oppose CRT, what is your plan to keep it out of the schools? As a first generation Vietnamese American, this is something that sits close to my heart. Racism and discrimination in any form, especially that with the mask of progressiveism, has no place in our current society. Making kids insecure about their white skin is evil to the core. I will continue to fight with all my being to ensure this doesn't find its way into our district, and if any teacher is found to be teaching any part of CRT, they are held responsible for their actions and reprimanded accordingly.

What is your opinion on students who have fallen behind and how would you address this problem? Luckily, The Festus R6 School Board is currently all on the same page, we all agree that there is no substitute for in seat learning and

we all have fought to keep our kids in the classroom. For those that have fallen behind, first and foremost, we need to get all students back in the classroom. Second, we need to ensure that they have the proper support structure. If that means getting the parents, siblings, friends, and other family more involved, then that's what we need to do.

What is your opinion on how the District is spending the money it receives and why? I believe the Festus School District and School Board are fine stewards of taxpayer dollars. We have one of, if not the highest starting wage for teachers. We are upgrading and maintaining our facilities to keep up with other larger districts.

What do you think makes you qualified for this position? My oldest son was one of those kids that got lost in the system. He struggled throughout his years at Festus. We had many meetings with building administration and at the end of the day they had given up on him. All they suggested was holding him back and wanted us to medicate him. We were left with no choice but to pull him from the district and place him in a private school where he absolutely thrived. This experience changed the way I viewed the public school system and vowed that if I can prevent one family from going through what we had to endure, then it was worth it.

What if any vision or direction do you see that needs to be made in the School District? I believe the Festus school district is currently heading in the right direction even with the current political divide in the country. If we want to preserve what we have, we will continue to need school board members that are able to base decisions without being swayed by politics.

Are there any closing remarks you would like to make? I would like to thank you for the opportunity to get my views out in the open. The Festus School district is close to my heart. I was born and raised in Festus and am a product of the Festus School district myself. Class of '97. I am a firm believer that no student should know a teacher's political affiliation or personal beliefs. It is our job to teach kids to think for themselves, not to think like us.

Thank you!

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