

Jefferson County Republican Club School Board Questionnaire

First Name: Raymond (Curtiss)

Last Name: Frazier

Email: Curtiss.Frazier@yahoo.com

Address1: 1945 St. Christopher Way

Address2:

City: Arnold

State: MO

ZIP Code: 63010

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

What School District are you running for Board Member? Fox C-6 School District

How long have you lived in the school district? 38 years

Do you have or have had children attend a school in the District?

Yes, I have three (3) children in the district. All attend Rockport Elementary.

What is your opinion on the mask mandate and why?

I am not for mandates in any form. They infringe on the freedoms of individuals. If a requirement for masks or other items was required, then they should follow through the process set form by the constitution and be brought through the legislative process. Individuals who are appointed or otherwise not elected officials should not have any authoritative powers.

If you oppose the mask mandate, what is your plan?

Wearing masks does reduce the probability of contracting viruses, so they should continue to be recommended in circumstances of high transmission and for individuals whom are at risk or recently found to be ill. I would be suggesting that temperature scanners be invested in using the funding provided by the federal government for covid. These along with a protocol for how to address students or personnel identified with an elevated temperature over the 100 F district requirement would help reduce individuals being admitted into the school population while sick. If an individual was identified via the scanner they would be moved to a location where their temperature can be verified with a more accurate device and then addressed accordingly. These type of devices are in the range of \$400- \$1500.

What is your opinion on the mandatory mask requirement and why?

See above comments

If you oppose mandatory mask requirement, what is your plan?

See above comments

What is your opinion on mandatory school shutdown and quarantine of children and why? I believe shutting down school should be a last resort as children learn best in person. When my children were in the virtual setting it was very apparent that especially young children are not able to sit still and focus for a long time in front of a screen or computer at home. They need the interaction of teachers face to face. The district needs to be proactive in planning on how to achieve this goal and not reactive.

If you oppose mandatory school shutdown and quarantine of children, what is your plan?

Children will unfortunately have to quarantine if ill. This has always been the case regardless of covid-19. The district however needs to prepare plans to address children that are unable to attend in person due to quarantine. In today's day and age virtual tools are much more available. Educators need to be trained and provided a base standard of what is required for virtual needs. It was understood in early 2019 when teachers were not prepared for the pandemic, but in 2020 and even now there is no excuse that they are not prepared and have plans in place for what should be done for

students in quarantine. Having this type of planning in place, should help the school to avoid mandatory shutdown. There is a large percentage of students in the district that rely on the district for meals and security.

What is your view on CRT and why?

CRT should not be forced on students in the education setting. It creates a bias towards particular races. I truly believe that everyone is created equal and until we quit recognizing race and ethnicity with special attention it will not be addressed. We should however not forget the past of where we have come from and the history of societies and countries. It provides us the basis of how we got to where we are today. We need to foster free thinking and competition for creating the drive in children to want to be the best they can and continue to learn. We need to focus on ideas and topics that bring people together.

If you oppose CRT, what is your plan to keep it out of the schools?

I would propose the district create a Diversity and Inclusion policy. This policy would address what education is allowed in the classroom and what type of materials are allowed to be displayed and taught. It would establish guidelines and training for teachers on how to respond to racially and gender related items brought up by students and situations. It would also provide specific resources that should be available for students who express signs of these types of situations. It would not be intended to convert students or their thinking, but encourage the idea that all students should feel welcome and loved in a school environment. The ultimate responsibility of a school Board is to have students in school learning and developing the tools needed to succeed in life. We do not need to be muddying this down with political ideologies, gender identities, and sexual orientation. If we can put a policy like this in place, we can be forward looking to address issues such as what genders use which spaces (Ex locker rooms, restrooms, etc.), how history is reflected upon related to race and ethnicity, and to not allow political ideologies to be pushed by any particular individual. Students can be taught of these different topics, but it needs to be with clear guidelines to not put an emphasis on any particular view point. For years religion has been forced to be kept separate in schools, so there is no reason these same items should not be treated equally.

What is your opinion on students who have fallen behind and how would you address this problem?

This is a tough item as a majority of the students have fallen behind due to the failure of planning from the virtual learning and lack of consistency between educators. Teachers will need to work to provide a better assessment of each child individually and then provide parents and the children resources to improve. This may be accomplished with having more temporary staff available to work one on one with students in areas needing improvement, or by providing parents with resources that can be used at home for those particular areas to help catch them up. It has to be a joint approach at school and at home as time is required for catching up, and there are only so many hours in the school day. Students also still need the time to be kids enjoying recess, sports, the arts, and other areas that are crucial to development.

What is your opinion on how the District is spending the money it receives and why?

At this time I believe the district is doing a better job on spending the money it receives, but this does not address the long standing hole that it has been dug into. The rising costs that the district faces due to inflation, rising health care costs, and staff salaries is all at a rate that the current mechanisms for receiving money cannot sustain. The district is capped to a 3% increase in funding a year based on state law. This means that if those items listed previously rise more than 3%, which has been the case the last few years, then the district falls behind. The district is going to have to make some tough choices in the coming years to cut some costs to offset the rising costs. This will likely have to be achieved by closing one of the school buildings that is not used to an adequate capacity. The district will also likely need to request a tax increase in the coming years as the last request has been almost 20 years ago. The funding mechanism setup by the state with the 3% cap increase in funds leads school districts to have to be on a cycle of bond issues and tax increases to stay in good standing. If the district does not address the negative balances in spending, the government will derate the school financial setting and send in auditors to run the finances until the district is back in good standing. This is what has happened with St. Louis City schools for the last several years. The Board and parents then have no say in what is done based on the state running the district.

What do you think makes you qualified for this position?

I believe I am qualified for this position for a number of reasons. I am parent in this district who had the opportunities provided to me from the district in the past. This has allowed me to become a professional engineer and leader within the workplace I am at. I manage multi million dollar budgets and projects with similar type funding mechanisms as the district. I have been serving on the district finance advisory committee for the last two years as a parent in the district learning about how the district earns and spends its money. Also being allowed to be a sounding board and provide feedback to the district finance officer and some school board members on what they are planning to do. I believe the district needs some people on the board that are not previous educators or administrators in education. This allows a diverse perspective into the decisions being made and I believe will drive better results. I have supported my wife being the president of the PTO for our children's school in learning about the challenges our schools face from principals, teachers, staff, and other parents in the district.

What if any vision or direction do you see that needs to be made in the School District?

The district focus needs to be shifted to a more long term thinking approach. Things often seem to be more reactive than proactive and this needs to change. We have to get in front of the finances and make the needed changes before we are forced to make drastic moves. We need to get in front of CRT and other types of theories being pushed into our students and children by creating plans and policies that we can rely on for a consistent approach of educating for our students. We also need to be making sure we are providing our students all the tools and opportunities to succeed in life. We want them to have the arts that we had when we were kids, we want them to have the team building opportunities we had in sports, and we want them to have the quality education we had when we were young allowing us to be the successful adults and parents we are today.

Are there any closing remarks you would like to make?

Thank you!