

Lansing Unified School District No. 469  
School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Roy S. Foster  
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1. Why do you want to be on the board of education and what has been your past involvement in our schools?

My interest in serving on the school board stems from my ambition to continue to find ways to serve the community and my vested interest in our public schools. I have 4 children currently in the district. Next academic year I will have one at each campus. Fiscal responsibility, curriculum and educational programming, and preparing our kids for the future workforce demands are of special interest. I have participated in site councils and recently ran for school board in the last election. My wife is also currently very active in several site councils.

2. What role does the board have in supervising improvements in curriculum and instruction?

The board has accountability for establishing the criteria for curriculum and monitoring the effectiveness of the curriculum and instruction. The board should establish a multiyear curriculum plan that drives the district leadership to achieve and maintain the maximum level of workforce and college readiness. The board should listen to educators on effectiveness of curriculum and instruction on student achievement and career readiness.

3. In your opinion, how much involvement should the board have in the preparation of the budget priorities?

School Board's primary responsibility with respect to the budget is to adopt and monitor the budget that is prepared by the Superintendent and district leaders. The board should be looking for a level of detail and accountability to the district priorities. The board should seek to understand if the budget is categorically reasonable and ensures that the district will be able to meet its obligation to students and staff.

4. Do you think the boards of education should evaluate their performance annually and set district goals? Why or why not?

The board of education in collaboration with the superintendent should establish 5-year forward looking plans that address ongoing performance improvement that pushes the district to be a top performing district in the state and the country. The 5-year plan provides the basis for annual performance targets for the board, the superintendent and for the district. The process of developing both 5-year plan and the annual district goals should be inclusive, sourcing insights from the community, district staff and the board. When developed correctly every person in the district has clarity on how they contribute to the district meeting and exceeding annual goals and what KPIs will be leveraged to monitor their performance.

5. Should the board have any day-to-day involvement in the operation of the schools? Explain.

The school board should not have any involvement in the day-to-day operation of the schools. The superintendent and district staff and school leadership have responsibility for day-to-day operations. The board should constantly be evaluating the impact of policies on the day-to-day operations. The community is always welcome to engage the board with operational concerns, but the board should expect that those day-to-day concerns are managed by the superintendent and other district leaders. With that said I do think the board members should be reasonably visible at various school activities. I would want teachers, staff and community members to feel comfortable engaging me in conversations about how we are doing as a district and how we could do better.