

My Commitment to the SLSD Community

If elected to represent the public on the School Board for the Southern Lehigh School District, I commit to adhere to the following principles and take the actions described below.

Focus on Core Educational Mission

Parents and guardians entrust their children to our schools for the limited purpose of instruction in core academic subjects and to be taught the skills and habits necessary to be successful academically. Over the past years, our focus on education has drifted. I therefore commit to:

- Focus first and foremost on advancing academic excellence in SLSD schools
- Ensure that all students at all levels are getting the attention and resources they need to succeed academically in accordance with a student's interests, abilities, and needs, consistent with available resources
- Refocus attention on academics and defer to parents and guardians on the social, emotional, and moral upbringing of their children (subject to mandated reporting situations)

Fiscal Responsibility

Through our local property taxes, our citizens entrust their hard earned money to our school board to spend wisely to educate the children of our community. Our taxpayers include citizens that don't have children in our schools, or that are retired and are on fixed incomes. Our school board, therefore, has a duty that to ensure that tax dollars are spent prudently. I commit that:

- The surplus fund will be the first funds to be used in addressing budgetary short falls, emergency expenditures, and other necessary expenditures (post-stadium improvements, the balance is expected to still be in the \$7-8mm range)
- Two year moratorium on tax increases (barring major facilities/safety failure that requires prompt action and cannot be addressed through use of the surplus fund balance)
- Increasing school property tax rates will always be the funding of last resort

Neutrality

School should be a place of learning and focus, not another battleground in the culture wars. Our community includes people of many different views from all sorts of different backgrounds. Those views should be respected. Our district should re-affirm its commitment that administrators, teachers, counselors, and other staff are required to be politically neutral while acting within the scope of their employment. I commit to:

- Propose and vote in favor of adoption of a Neutrality Policy to avoid the appearance that the district or its employees support (tacitly or expressly) any particular political or social viewpoint, and to ensure that students who may be of diverse viewpoints do not feel pressured, coerced, or obligated to support (tacitly or expressly) any viewpoint held by the district or any district employee, or contribute to or render service in support of, any political viewpoint, candidate, or party
- Monitor compliance with the Neutrality Policy by following up and discussing complaints in open public dialogue at school board meetings and ensure that action on violations is taken in a reasonable period of time rather than languishing in administrative review

Reject Woke Politics in Our Schools

Our schools should not be used as a vehicle to indoctrinate our students into partisan, cynical, and divisive ways of thinking about our country, its history, our fellow citizens, or any particular social or political issue. I commit to:

- Reject the oppressor/oppressed framework in all district matters
- Reject differing treatment of individuals, or assigning of moral or historical guilt, based on race or other immutable characteristics
- Reject forced equal outcomes, but instead embrace and cultivate equal opportunity for all
- Reject measures, actions, training, or curriculum based on or driven by critical race theory and the mechanisms through which its holdings may be implemented
- Propose and vote for a curriculum review process that ensures that woke politics are not introduced or propagated within our schools

Recognize and Respect Our Biological Differences

While an individual's right to express themselves as they see fit within the bounds of the law should be respected, the privacy rights of our students should not be cast aside in favor of novel views of sex and gender. Our schools should not be used as a vehicle to indoctrinate our students into gender ideology or queer theory, nor should our schools interfere with the primary role of parents or guardians in tending to the social, emotional, psychological, and physical well-being of their children (with the exception only of mandated reporting situations). I commit to:

- Propose and vote for a resolution that (i) immediately overturns SLSD's policy of hiding gender identity information from parents and guardians and (ii) requires that the district notifies parents and guardians of any such information that has been previously withheld
- Propose and vote for a Board Policy that requires district employees to notify parents or guardians of any request by a student to be referred to by a name, pronoun, gender, or other identifier that is inconsistent with that student's legal name and biological sex
- Subject to the next paragraph, propose and vote for a resolution that would make clear that our school district is required to defer to parents and guardians in determining (i) what names, nicknames, and/or pronouns, if any, may be used for their children by district employees while their child is at school, (ii) whether their child engages in any counseling or instruction relating to gender identity, and (iii) whether their child expresses a gender that differs from his/her biological sex while at school
- Propose and vote for a resolution that states clearly that no district employee is *required* under any circumstances to use a name, pronoun, or other identifier that is inconsistent with a student's legal name and biological sex
- Ensure that our school district is not intentionally or inadvertently advocating or endorsing gender ideology or queer theory to students in any manner
- At the first school board meeting after being sworn in, propose and vote on a resolution requiring our school district to evaluate alternatives to the district's current unwritten, unapproved "policy" of allowing any student to use bathrooms or locker rooms, or participate on sports teams, that do not align with that student's biological sex, and disclose and explain to the public in detail the results of such evaluation, with the results of such evaluation to be available no later than six weeks after the resolution is approved

- If the results of that evaluation show that it is legally permissible to do so, propose and vote for a resolution requiring students to use only bathrooms and locker rooms (and participate on sports teams) that align with their biological sex

Ownership and Transparency

Trust in our school district has been badly damaged in recent years due to the actions of certain administrators and staff and the failure of previous school board members to be candid and open with the public. Rebuilding trust requires time and effort. School board members are the directly elected representatives of our community, and as such are expected to do the essential job of setting policy and making key decisions and to build and maintain trust they must do so in a transparent manner. Many of the policies and decisions are contentious, making transparency that much more important. I commit to:

- Engage with members of the community in a public setting to ensure that their voices are heard
- Share my view on important matters of public interest so that the public knows where I stand
- Hold our administration to account to ensure that school board policy and decisions are fully and faithfully executed in a timely manner
- Provide substantive explanations of why the Board takes or does not take action on a given issue, and why I vote for or against a particular action
- Provide oversight of the district administration to ensure that Right to Know requests are being addressed in a timely and compliant manner
- Share with the public as fully as legally permissible and in a timely manner the results of any inquiries or investigations conducted by, on behalf of, or at the direction of the School Board

Sign

Print Name

Date