

# School Board Candidate Questionnaire



## Glenna Jehl Responses

1. Why are you running? (If an incumbent, tell us your accomplishments as a Board member.)

I have been a staunch supporter of teachers who have been under tremendous pressure to continually adapt to the numerous requirements mandated by the state and federal government and by the ongoing curriculum changes and reforms imposed by the administration ie., changes in discipline, introducing Deep thinking, changing the way we grade, teaching virtually or using differentiated teaching. Teachers have heroically attempted to teach while accommodating all these adaptations while knowing the results on the high stakes assessments, that are also being switched out frequently as the state rolls out its latest version every few years, impacts their performance evaluations. At some point all these demands on our teachers become unrealistic since there are only so many hours in a day in which to get all of this done. My passion is fighting for academic excellence for all students and to see teachers get the recognition and respect that they deserve!

2. How often have you attended school board meetings, and have you ever addressed the Board?

As a two-term school board member, I have attended many school board meetings, committee meetings, executive sessions in person. I have also attended Equity Conferences in DC to lobby in Congress, and testified before the education committee down at the Statehouse in Indy to advocate for public education issues.

3. What do you see as the overall role of the school board?

The main responsibility of the School Board is to hire the Superintendent, then set the policies and direction of the school district and hold the administration accountable for the outcomes after implementing those policies.

4. What role does the school board play in establishing social and racial equity in the district?

The board sets the policy that emphasizes the goal of social and racial equity for the entire district, but leaves it up to the administration to implement those policies. We review the reports or complaints that point to any social injustices or racial discrimination and remind the administration when there are issues that need to be addressed. If necessary, we may draw up new policies whenever unforeseen racial or social inequity comes to light.

5. What role do you see the Association playing in supporting teachers and/or support professionals?

FWEA plays a vital role in supporting teachers. Not only in fighting for the wages that teachers as true professionals deserve, but in helping to be a voice for fighting unfair labor practices and protecting the teachers who may need defending against any lawsuits that are brought up against them. The Association has also played a crucial role in



ensuring that the plans to return to the classroom during a Pandemic made the safeguarding our teachers, many who were vulnerable due to underlying health conditions, remains a high priority.

6. Working conditions in general are no longer negotiable under current bargaining laws. How would you as a school board member seek input from teachers regarding working conditions to ensure the best learning environments for students and safe working conditions for educators?

I have worked very hard to be available to listen to and assist teachers who have raised concerns about their personal safety or the conditions in their classrooms. I have always protected their identities when there was a fear of retaliation. I will continue to be an advocate for our teachers whom I deeply respect for all they are doing to make our district a success and for their hard work and dedication to their students.

7. Do you support charter schools?

Charter schools are a reality for the time being. As long as they are legal, I support the right for parents to choose a charter school for their child. However, I support the same accountability of the charters for academic performances as at all public schools and if either fails to adequately educate their students they should be taken over or closed down.

8. Do you support vouchers?

Unfortunately, Vouchers are here to stay. The trend is to have the money follow the student with the idea that this will force the public schools to improve on academic performance since people will switch to better schools if they are given that opportunity. This can create healthy competition or hardship. No student should be deprived of a first rate education based on their zip code. We must do more to remove the disparity between a 46845 or 46814 student and a 46807 or 46805 student. It will take hard work and innovation to do so, but it is not outside the realm of possibility and then we will truly be the School of Choice in our region.

9. Would you be willing to lobby the legislature with the Association on areas of common interest?

Yes!

10. Do you have a campaign plan?

Yes! Similar to my two previous campaigns.