

Utah Parents In Action School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Please read the following statements about education policies and programs and indicate your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement.

Name *

Benjamin Woodward

Seat you are running for *

Nebo District 4

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Current Occupation/Position *

[Engineering Technician @ TransAmerican Medical Imaging](#)

Please upload picture

 24892708-3799-...

I understand my answers will be shared with parents *

yes

Parents and citizens should have complete, unhindered access to all of the teaching materials that are used in their children's education.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Nebo School District has similar policies in place but in recent months they limited the review process to parents only. Patrons cannot request reviews.

School Boards and Schools should establish parental review processes for all policies, products, and programs that are being considered for use in the schools before those materials are introduced into schools and classrooms.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Again the District has similar policies but they've removed patrons and severely limited parents in the review process.

School Boards and Schools should proactively inform parents when parental consent is required by state law for surveys, curriculum, etc.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

School facilities (bathrooms, locker rooms, hotel rooms, etc) use should be determined by biological sex.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Unfortunately, that policy would be set at the State level. I will follow the law but I personally believe that school facility use should be determined by biological sex.

Participation in school sports should be based on biological sex.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Again, I personally believe it should be determined by biological sex but I will follow whatever the law dictates.

Educational material that suggests that an individual's thoughts or character can be determined by that individual's race, religion, sex, or national origin, should not be taught in schools.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Schools should expand educational programs that enable students with special gifts and talents to develop their individual capacities in a more demanding academic environment.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

No School Board or School shall agree to, or renew, a contract with any provider of educational products or programs if that contract, in any way, restricts parental access to the contents of those products or programs.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

School Boards and Schools should lobby the legislature to provide more money to fund education in Utah.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

I don't believe schools and school districts should be in the lobbying business, however, School districts get much of their funding from the state so lobbying will happen regardless.

No School Board or School shall agree to, or renew, a contract with any provider of educational products or programs, if that contract, in any way, allows the sharing of individual student information with any other entities unless that sharing is specifically approved, in writing, by the student's parents.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

The state requires some information be shared with the state to determine certain metrics, like if a particular program or standard is working. But student information should not be shared/sold outside of state-mandated parameters.

School Boards and Schools should establish policies and procedures that ensure that parents have access to all the details of the proposed district and school budgets and the opportunity to provide suggestions and recommendations before those budgets are finalized.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

I know for Nebo School District, the proposed budget is shared usually in the May or June Board Meeting, which allows for a month for people to review and submit comments or questions.

The State has the ultimate medical jurisdiction over children

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

That right should reside with parents.

School Boards and Schools should terminate memberships and cease contributing funds to any national, state, or local education organization that is contrary to the laws, regulations, or values of Utah.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

School Boards and Schools should establish policies and procedures that affirm the educational excellence of our teachers and support their complete independence to select educational material they choose to use.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

The school District has a review process in place, though not always used, to ensure that the principals review and approve/reject instructional materials to ensure they meet legal requirements.

School Boards and Schools should establish policies and procedures that affirm the need to teach and practice social justice in the classroom, school, and community.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Social justice like any other political ideology, should be taught objectively and in context. But it should not be given preferential treatment. This also means it should not be taught outside of a sociology or political science class.

School Boards and Schools should establish policies and procedures that promote the adoption of educational programs supported by the current U.S. Department of Education, such as the New York Time's 1619 project.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

In my opinion, the Department of Education shouldn't even exist. However, if they offer a program that is objectively beneficial, I would not be opposed to those.

School Boards and Schools should establish policies and procedures to promote and expand social and emotional learning policies, procedures, practices, and programs to better prepare our children to live in this turbulent world.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Since so many SEL companies are turning towards SEL through an equitable or Transformative lens, their goal is indoctrination.

School Boards and Schools should establish policies and procedures that incorporate the emerging best practices of the educational excellence promoted by the national education organizations and federal government

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

I believe they should be given the option, but School Districts in partnership with parents should have the freedom to choose how best to educate their students.

Do you support Governor Cox vetoing HB11, which would prohibit biological boys from competing in girls sports?

- Yes
- No

Explain answer (optional)

Parents should have reasonable time to give public comment in every school board meeting

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Nebo School District allows 3 minutes per person, 5 minutes per group, and has allotted 30 minutes for public comment.

Adaptive Learning Programs ought to be used in classrooms

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

That's a hard question. It's good in theory but the companies providing it are pretty woke so there doesn't seem to be a good answer.

Parents have the fundamental right and duty to exercise primary control over the care, supervision, upbringing, and education of their children.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Local School Boards should utilize federal grants when possible

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Just because the grants are there doesn't mean they should be used. Federal money usually comes with strings attached.

The USBE rule regarding educational equity is adequate and will prevent CRT and other divisive ideologies from being taught in our schools? ***Here's where you can find the educational equity rule: <https://bit.ly/3jusaS> ***Here's the link to the rule: <https://bit.ly/3JzFosd>

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

You can never fully legislate something in it's entirety. I fully believe that CRT will never be implemented as a curriculum but CRT will only be taught by the teachers of that ideology. We need to be proactive and make sure that teachers and teachers selected materials aren't teaching CRT.

The current Utah State Civics Standards, as written by the Utah State Board of Education, are sufficient. ***See proposed standards here: <https://bit.ly/3rlomrD>

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

First, we're not a representative democracy. We're a constitutional republic with democratic elements. And there are a lot of vague and general terms in that document that could mean putting governments and communities before families and individuals.

Schools ought to teach Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Students don't need to know the intricacies of oral or anal sex, or specifics of bdsm, our techniques for masturbation.

Local School Boards should have authority to issue mask mandates for their school district

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

Education funds ought to follow the child, at the direction of the parent, to meet the educational needs of the child

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Undecided
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Explain answer (optional)

What would you like to tell UPU parents about yourself and how, if elected, you will represent Utah parents?

I love doing research. I'm an honest truth seeker and I strive to live my life by logic and reason. I'm a staunch individualist. I served 8 years in the Utah Army National Guard so I have a love and an understanding of the US and Utah Constitutions.

The Utah School Board Association encourages school boards to maintain a unanimous vote to encourage a positive public opinion of the Board but I believe that does a disservice to the parents and patrons of the District because they may not know how their representatives are actually voting. I will always vote my conscious. I would've never have voted to remove patrons from the review process, nor would I have voted to remove the review process from the public eye.

Students and Parents first.

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