

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 *

Mindy Savage

Seat you are running for *

Morgan School Board District 4

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Current Occupation/Position *

Sales Rep/School bus driver

Please upload picture

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)

Parent should be involved on curriculum committees to understand the process and help vet the curriculum. I believe teachers should be as transparent as possible.

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)

Yes when this step is skipped or not followed through on things can slip through. There is a lot of things to review. The guidelines are already there for community councils we need more parents to get involved and fill those councils then create sub committees as needed.

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)

Absolutely. Yes many people don't understand what the law is including teachers we need to bring greater awareness to everyone of what the laws contain.

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)

Participation in school sports should be based on biological sex.

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

Explain answer (optional)

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)

I think this can be accomplished by utilizing concurrent & college programs already available.

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)

No doubt. That would be a huge red flag to me as a parent.

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)

Yes but i believe more in individual control at the local level where boards determine what the needs are for their district. I don't like when money is earmarked and you have to do a certain program to get the money. I also believe we should try to increase teacher pay in a way that encourages them to perform and meet goals.

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)

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)

Yes, I know they hold the truth in taxation and budget meetings in an open forum. I'm not sure of the current laws on this but would like to find out how the budget could be more transparent to parents and the community as they are the tax payers.

The State has the ultimate medical jurisdiction over children

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

Explain answer (optional)

No that right is parents by the Utah Constitution.

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)

No teachers need to follow the standards and guidelines put forth by the state of Utah and their local district.

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)

The most important function of the LEA is to educate children with educational fundamentals such as reading, writing, mathematics, science skills, computer skills, & life skills. While there is an aspect of learning to form relationships, getting along with others and not bullying for any differences, I believe social issues is to be parent led in the home.

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)

I believe that education issues at the national level should be very simplistic and delegate responsibilities to individual states, and local districts. The people in those areas should decide what is taught in their schools. The 1619 project is extremely divisive and would not be something I would want taught in my school district.

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)

I believe that parents should be involved first and foremost in determining what the emotional needs are for their children. I believe that having options available to support teaching parenting skills would be worthwhile approach. I think there are definitely areas where we can help children learn about their emotions in school and how to manage them. But delving into emotional needs can also trigger children more. While teachers are not trained as mental health providers, I think they do have very valuable observations and information that can be passed on to parents and social workers to help assist the children. Many teachers have made a huge impact in kids by listening and then enlisting the help the children need. Teachers will have the child in their classroom for just a school year but a parent will likely be involved for a lifetime, so anything we can do to grow and improve that relationship is top priority.

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)

Other than providing some standards for the country, I believe that any policy made should be made at the State or local level. What would serve one area well may not work for others, I don't believe in a one size fits all approach to education.

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

- Yes
- No

Explain answer (optional)

I do not believe one persons right should supersede that of thousands of others. The rights should be equal in all situations. I believe it should be by birth certificate and by chromosomes. There is a physiological advantage of biologically born boys than biological girls that is documented through many scientific studies. This is why Title IX was added to the educational amendments in 1972. It was developed to provide females with fair opportunities for competition and correct those imbalances that existed.

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

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

Explain answer (optional)

Yes parents should be able to voice their opinion of school issues. Many times parent can provide very valuable information as they are the ones also in the trench's alongside teachers. I do think public comment should be respectful.

Adaptive Learning Programs ought to be used in classrooms

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

Explain answer (optional)

There are some programs being used that local schools have found extremely valuable in help identify what areas of math a student is weak in. It then helps them to be able to work on weaker areas such as fractions, times tables etc. In reading it can help determine if a child needs help with phonics, word speed etc. The down side is too much computer time and always feeling like you're take a test can be counter productive. There is great value in one on one instruction, group work and tangible manipulation. So I guess I would say a combined approach is best.

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)

I believe grants should be utilized when they meet the needs of a local district. I believe that you should always follow the money source and be very clear about what is expected in return. There are programs where there are many strings attached to "free money".

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/3jusa1S> ***Here's the link to the rule: <https://bit.ly/3JzFosd>

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

Explain answer (optional)

I believe it is a start on helping to control divisive curriculum. But I also believe that attention and detail in curriculum review committees is where we can really vet curriculum.

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)

I will study this more but there are some wording that bothers me. I also think that any history needs to be taught from primary documents such as the Constitution, Bill of Rights, Amendments, etc. I'm not sure 1st graders can understand the concept of seeing from different points of view. On the 5th grade strand 6 I think asking these questions: What are the most pressing issues facing the United States today? What are some ways students my age can make a difference? Who are some of the most inspiring people working to make positive changes? This is all very subjective and broad areas for adults to discuss. I feel its too broad of a subject for a 5th grader and not age appropriate.

Schools ought to teach Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

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

Explain answer (optional)

Districts should be teaching Utah Code 53G-10-402. That is what is approved for health classes now. Nothing else should be taught at this time.

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

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

Explain answer (optional)

I believe the county's commission and the school board should have full control over local decisions.

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?

My experience as a mother and in working for an at risk youth facility for seven years have shaped much of what I believe should happen in education. I believe that we have many talented and wonderful teachers who are competent to teach our children. I have been the recipient in seeing great care and growth in the 18 years I've had kids in public education. I want this to continue but I believe we have to take steps to protect public education. I believe we can continue to be successful by listening to and learning from each other. I have also seen examples in the past year of curriculum committee vetting finding and intercepting inappropriate material thanks to a very vigilant parent. Having parental involvement in this process is essential. This check and balance has to happen in districts to prevent content that does not follow state and district policies. School districts and boards need to be proactive and remove content and curriculum that doesn't meet guidelines.

I have spoken with many teachers over the last few months many are at burnout. In my district I would like to work on addressing the prevalent issues such as professional development time, transition time for grades and prep for new classes, support from administration, how to deal with phones and other distractions in class, disciplinary action, meeting demands of so many State requirements and testing. These are just some of the issues teachers have told me they need help with and supporting our greatest asset...those who are willing to educate our children.

Another great concern I have is supporting parental right, responsibility, and choice. At times it has seemed as though the district and parents are enemies when in fact we need to flip that to being each other's greatest allies. Parents need to have complete transparency as to what their children are learning, by state law they must give consent for certain things. This must be followed. Districts need parental support and involvement on committees so parents can be heard. LEA need to listen to parental concerns and promote unity.

There is much to do... I grew up in a farm so I am a hard worker but have also worked for corporations where I used professional skills as well. I have volunteered in many capacities such as fundraisers, team mom, 4H Livestock Committee, church volunteer with children, Republican precinct chair, room mom, curriculum committees, and community councils. I am dedicated to my community and will do my best to study issues and serve their needs!

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