



E-REP 2022
CANDIDATE
QUESTIONNAIRE
**EVSC SCHOOL
BOARD
DISTRICT 2**

**Michael J.
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EVSC School Board
District 2
Non Partisan

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QUESTION 1:

As a school board member, what are/will be your priorities to protect or increase funding in the many aspects of the school district budget?

ANSWER 1:

I would work with our local State rep. delegation to help them understand the needs and issues we face in our District. Recent changes where the funds were condensed into 3 areas rather than 5 was a good start. Any Legislation that gives School Districts more flexibility where funds can be moved across line items, with Board approval, helps districts provide help when there are shortfalls. Of course guidelines set forth by the State Board of Accounts should be factored in.

QUESTION 2:

The Evansville Region must increase our overall educational attainment if our citizens are going to compete successfully in the global economy. Increased High School graduation rates and post-secondary credentials are regional goals. If you could rewrite the education and workforce programs and processes, what changes would you make or what would you keep to work toward this goal?

ANSWER 2:

I would like to look at proficiency benchmarks. Requirements that students must to pass at earlier grade levels. This would insure that no child is being passed without knowing the material. Reading by the 3rd grade, simple math and finance by a certain grade, US history and World History by a certain grade. Once the core requirements are complete, lets offer a way for them to do co-op programs with local business and trades, it would help them determine a clearer path for their future.

QUESTION 3:

Another regional goal is to move families out of poverty. Schools are often a significant provider of social services. What changes can be made to this program delivery system to better support families and students on their path to economic stability and career success?

ANSWER 3:

Schools can't do it all. A way to have parents meet with area non profit agencies at the schools when available, determined by the principal, could help get them on the right path. Working with agencies like the United Way, area churches, Echo Housing, and other support groups could be a good start. With the recent Covid pandemic, schools are playing catch up with trying to help students improve academics that were lost while away from regular school attendance.

QUESTION 4:

What is your priority issue you plan to champion during your term on the School Board?

ANSWER 4:

School Boards have been criticized recently for lack of transparency. I would like to help develop a way to help parents and community members feel welcome to provide questions and to receive information regarding the management of the Schools.



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QUESTION 1:

As a school board member, what are/will be your priorities to protect or increase funding in the many aspects of the school district budget?

ANSWER 1:

My priorities have always been to lobby our legislators for increased funding for education, in particular the EVSC. I am a "watch dog" over our complex budget and ESSER funds, and scrutinize our "on line" posting of the budget, so as to make sure that the money is spent appropriately and prudently. The EVSC has been in the forefront on educational programming for years. Besides our traditional instructional program, we also have Early College, AP, and dual credit courses. We have specialized programs such as Medical academy, Law academy, Virtual academy, New Tech stem academy, ROTC, OPT IN- internship at Ameriqua, and the Toyota internship at Bosse High School. We also have vibrant Alternative schools, such as Harwood prep academy, and the Academy for Innovative Studies, at both the high school and middle school levels. In addition, our Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center, has a myriad of excellent career readiness programs, preparing students for immediate employment after graduation. We will always look to improve our programming, but I will always protect the programs we have, and the budget that supports them.

QUESTION 2:

The Evansville Region must increase our overall educational attainment if our citizens are going to compete successfully in the global economy. Increased High School graduation rates and post-secondary credentials are regional goals. If you could rewrite the education and workforce programs and processes, what changes would you make or what would you keep to work toward this goal?

ANSWER 2:

I feel very strongly that EVSC has the best traditional and workforce academic curriculum and programs in the state of Indiana. We are extremely diligent and proud of our Career readiness curriculum that we offer to our students. The Southern Indiana Career and Technology Center's workforce programs are extensive, and of top quality. One specific initiative that has been very successful is our OPT IN experience. OPT IN is a workforce program that focuses on marginal students who are struggling academically, and providing the school/work apprenticeship at Ameriqua Inc. The students in the program work a half day under supervision of Ameriqua in the morning, and then attend school in the afternoon, or vice versa. The goal is to provide the students a path to continue working there after graduation. The same concept exists with Toyota at Bosse High School, and we are looking to expand to other companies. We are always dedicated in evaluating and improving our traditional and workforce curriculum and programs, and will continue to do so. We want our students to be academically prepared, with the career readiness skills, to be successful in whatever path they may choose.

QUESTION 3:

Another regional goal is to move families out of poverty. Schools are often a significant provider of social services. What changes can be made to this program delivery system to better support families and students on their path to economic stability and career success?

ANSWER 3:

EVSC is always reaching out to children and their families with food insecurities and poverty to assist them in stabilizing their lives with our wrap around services. We have free and reduced lunch for qualified students every year, and we provide lunches for children during the summer months. We also give food items to children to keep them from going hungry over the weekend (fill the backpacks). Schools usually always collect can goods around Thanksgiving and Christmas. We offer clothing and accessories at our Hangers clothing store, and we partner with churches and other organizations to provide food, activities, and even Christmas gifts around the holidays, and even throughout the year. Before and After School programming is also provided for these children. We track very closely our homeless population to make sure all their concerns are met. We also continue to add social workers through EVSC and Youth First. We have counselors in all our buildings, who monitor the academic progress of these children, and assist them with extra tutoring, counseling, and enrollment to summer school. We also scrutinize their test scores to see if remediation is necessary. We are actively compassionate about providing for every single student in our care.

QUESTION 4:

What is your priority issue you plan to champion during your term on the School Board?

ANSWER 4:

My priorities are to make sure we keep lobbying our legislators for increased education funding to be able to again give pay increases to our teachers and staff in the next biennium. I will advocate and lobby for expansion of the 21st Century Scholars program. I will be aggressive in making sure all our teachers have the training needed to keep our children safe. I will advocate for an increase in extra curricular personnel stipends. The last increase was in 2014-15. I will be diligent in making sure our budget and ESSER funds are spent appropriately and prudently. I will advocate for more mental health services for our children. The State allotted 100 million dollars for this cause in the last biennium. Finally, I will push to make sure all teachers have the resources needed to fiscally and academically assist our children in recovering from the pandemic.