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I think we're ready to get started. Thank you so much for coming out today to this debate. We want to thank the American International School of Utah for hosting this debate and their great facility. And I am so pleased to be here hosting this debate. I don't know how many of you are familiar with the history of this building, but I'm pleased to be hosting this debate in my childhood bowling alleym which was right here, right down the way from my childhood skating rink and my childhood miniature golf course and it was so awesome to come walking through these doors today and find that they still have the whole, you know, the cobblestone streets out there. And this really is a great school and we want to

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thank them so much for hosting this debate. I would also like to think Luke Orton who has gotten all of the technical problems solved for us to get some great sound tonight. We are a few in numbers right here in the seats but we are live streaming this debate tonight. We're posting that online for people to watch later. Also, all of the audio and the transcripts from this debate are being hosted at KSL.com, as well as all the past debates as well. So if you'd like to see what candidates had to say in other debates you're welcome to go to KSL.com and find that. And that has just opened up

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a huge audience so this debate will travel far. A lot of people are going to be able to hear these candidates, read their words, and really understand these issues a lot better. I want to take a brief moment to thank our sponsors: United Way of Salt Lake, the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools who really initiated all of this, The Hinckley Institute of Politics, Sutherland Institute, and KSL.com. We'd also like to thank Morgan from the Hinckley Institute who is our clock for tonight. She's sitting right down here in front. And last but not least, we would like to thank the candidates: Rich Nelson and Janet Cannon.

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And we also have a special guest tonight to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. We have Senator Brian Shiozawa. Thank you so much for being here, Senator. If you'd come forward and we ask that you all stand.

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Thank you. Would you all join me in pledging allegiance? I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the

republic for which it stands one nation under God indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

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And thank you for standing. Thank you, Senator.

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Now on to the debate. I'll be the moderator for this evening. My name is Ethan Millard and I am a 10-year veteran of KSL Radio and recently moved to their podcast division which, as they tell me, is the future. So I'm glad to be on that train right now. A couple of rules for the debate.

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We are going to have this in two phases. The first round will be a series of questions that will be posed to the candidates by me, and then we're going to also open it up to you. So over the next several minutes as you have a chance to hear the candidates, please think about questions that you may have. You can ask follow up questions. There's nothing wrong with asking questions that have already been – on topics that have already been covered if you want to hear something more or hear something again. Also, we welcome all new topics fresh and new as well, so please think about that. A couple of helpful tips. If you have

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something to jot it down on even if it's just jotting down a brief text in your phone, I find that often helps. So if you get a question that you can read, that'll help help us move quickly as well. Now as far as the questions go, we are going to offer each candidate a two minute opening statement and after that we're going to move to the questions. Each candidate will receive two minutes to answer the question. We're going to offer them each as well a one minute rebuttal and we're going to flip a coin to see– unless you'd like to go first? All

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right, we'll defer to Janet Cannon with a two minute opening statement. Make sure to keep an eye on Morgan with the time cues. She has a card for 30 seconds, 10 seconds and time. We do ask that when you hit time, we do ask that you close your remarks so that I don't have to interrupt.

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Well, when I was in third grade I had a teacher that I just loved. Her name was Mrs. Taylor and she taught me times tables and cursive writing and she was the first teacher to ever tell me that I was like one of those kids from Lake Bold Be Gone. I was above average. I loved her and I went on to college, I got a master's degree in speech pathology. I worked in schools as a speech pathologist and then I had

five children. Some of my children were gifted, some of my children were not gifted but one of my children was gifted learning disabled.

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And that led me to many years of working in the schools and working with teachers to try to be an advocate to help compensate for this learning disability. About that time, neighbors recruited me to run for the State Board of Education. I ran and served there for several years along the way. I had an opportunity to be on the Board of Regents. I had an opportunity to serve on Utah Colleges of Applied Technology and I was a liaison between the state board and the charter school board. Two years ago, the 6th of our seven grandchildren was born with Down's Syndrome

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and once again, I felt a need to try to come forward and put my name and candidacy out to try to be an advocate to help this child and all children in Utah and be an advocate for them. And to that end, I'd like to just put forward an idea who I think this time has come. For almost 30 years, Utah has been dead last in public education funding. I think it's time for that to change. It hasn't always been the case but now we're the most poorly funded because our state isn't making the effort it needs to make to fund our kid's

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education.

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Thank you. Thank you, Janet Cannon. Candidate Rich Nelson. I'm running because I care deeply about this topic.

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My kids and my grandkids will be fine. I've discovered over the last number of years in education that there are way too many kids that won't be fine. The last four years I've been teaching in Edison Elementary for a day. And when you spend a day owning a class at the worst elementary school in the state -

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95% free lunch is a nice way to say poverty - It changes you. I've invited the governor, I've invited the lieutenant governor there a couple times, taken 120 executives there. I've spent the last 10 years changing education. If you want to look at a track record, look at my track record, I head up an association for the last 17 years that needs talent and we don't have enough talent. There are 5,000 tech companies in the state, I'm the CEO of the Utah Technology Council, and frankly, it's all about talent. Our kids don't have a

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chance to get a job in most of our companies because they're not

challenged. We need to change the rigor and that's why I'm running. There are a lot of reasons I'm running. I think 16 years on the school board –my opponent – is long enough. I think that my track record through UTC in changing education, in fusing innovation – the Stem Action Center, The Stem MX, the engineering initiative – the major changes in education have been driven by UTC and that's what I've been doing in the last 10 years and I know I can affect education too.

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Thank you. Thank you to both of our candidates. Now we're going to offer up a few questions and as I mentioned, each of the candidates will be given two minutes each to answer and then we will also offer them a one minute rebuttal if they feel like it is necessary, which they could also certainly decline. Our first question will go over to Rich Nelson and my question is on school grading. Utah's schools are now given a letter grade and that has met with some rejoicing, some consternation. Do you believe we should keep the system or get rid of it? Or,

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what changes would you make if you feel it necessary? Two minutes.

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I think if you really understand what your school grade for your local school is, you'll be thankful you've got it. It came from Jeb Bush from his best practices in Florida. There was one thing that he would do again in Florida to fundamentally change and improve education – he's got an amazing track record there, he started a foundation that we patterned this one thing after – is give everybody a letter grade and it gets the community involved, it gets a greater funding. Senator Niederauer was the one that

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championed that when he became the President of the Senate he changed that three or four times, he's a statesman to do that. He went out and got seven million dollars of additional money but for school grading and the failing schools to get out of that, that would never have happened. It's an innovative way to change the paradigm. The current system that we've had for so many years just doesn't work. I absolutely would keep it. There needs to be some kind of accountability.

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I'd make sure that it's fair. I'm sure that, you know, those that are running it, like the legislature has put into effect, is absolutely bringing these kids out of poverty by giving them a chance. They don't have a chance. They absolutely don't have a chance without us. And this is an innovation that has proven itself in Florida. Why wouldn't we keep it? Those that are for the status quo would not want this.

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Thank you. Janet Cannon, two minutes to you. All right.

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I have some feelings about school grading especially in light of recent events that have occurred around it.

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So I wrote down some numbers. Last year, our elementary schools,

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63 percent of them had A or B grades and our high schools, 56 percent of them had A or B grades. This year, they did much better. 74 percent got A's or B's in elementary and 66 percent of our high schools got A's, B's, and I attribute this to a lot of work by students and by teachers in particular. However, there is a glitch in the law that requires the State Board of Education to raise the range of scores for grades by 5 percent If

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too many of our schools do too well, and so they did that and now we have elementary schools, 56 percent of them with A's and B's and high schools with 43 percent of them with A's and B's. I don't know about you, but if I were a student and a teacher in that school and I had worked so hard to improve and do well and then I had been told I did too well so they're just doing all my grades down, I would not be happy about that. So I think perhaps school grading - we need to ask ourselves is

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school grading good for kids? Is it helping our students? I think there might be some value to parents in looking to seeing how their kids are doing. But, do you know a lot of it is based on socioeconomic scores

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and at the schools that are in the poorest socioeconomic school areas, they get lower scores? Those that are in higher get higher scores.

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Thank you.

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And we have a one minute rebuttal to Rich Nelsen. I'd welcome a rebuttal. Ask Laurie Lacey what she thinks about school grading. This is the worst elementary school in the state. 15th West, 8th South. That's why UTC has reached out to adopt it. I've challenged the governor to adopt it with me.

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We need some kind of accountability. That is the most changed school in the state of all elementary schools because of school grading. There is a way for even the worst, the most tough groups to change. Laurie came out of retirement on the east side to go be the principal of that school. Our median - Let's talk about how we're doing as a state. Are we a top 25 state in K-12? Oh no. We're someplace between 20th and 46th depending on what measurements. How do we get to be a top

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5 education state? We have aspirations. We have real people that have done real change like UTC and myself. You don't stay over the status quo or you'll continue to have very very marginal schools like we have.

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Thank you, Richard Nelsen. Janet Cannon, a one minute to you for rebuttal if you care to take it. Well

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again, I think we need to think about what is best for students.

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And I think we have accountability through other measures. I'm not sure that school grading, especially when if you do well they adjust the scores down to make sure that you don't do well or you don't feel good about yourself, is

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sort of a process that is hard to deal with, especially for kids and teachers.

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Thank you so much to both of our candidates. That's all the rebuttals.

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Maybe someone in the in the audience, Mike, may give you an opportunity to respond one last time but I'm going to move briefly on to a new topic. There's always a lot of talk about funding. So I'm going to ask you each this question and Janet Cannon, the first opportunity goes to you. Let's say that the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, they come to you personally - just you just the three of you. They sit you down and they ask you two questions. They say number one, Do we have a funding problem? And number two, what would you do about it? And they're willing to listen to you. What would you do about it?

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So the first two minutes go to you, Janet Cannon.

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OK. Well I would say, yes - we do have a funding problem. For almost 30 years, we have been the most poorly funded education system in the United States. But that hasn't always been true. In the 1960s, we were 37th, in the 1970s we were 40th, in 1980 we were 46th. But what's happened over the past few years? Well a few things. In 1995, there was a voter initiative that took income tax and the income tax

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was devoted to K-12 education at that time and it was changed so that it could go to K-12 education and to higher education. It essentially divided what we got for K-12 education in half. The second problem has been that our state used to have what was called an education paradox. We have such a high birth rate that we have a lot of kids for each taxpayer to fund their education. And Utah was in 1995, we were seventh in the nation in terms of

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our state making an effort to fund education for our kids. Well, over the last 20 years that has begin to slide. We are now 31st in terms of making an effort to fund our kid's education. I think we need to show more effort. I think we need to return the income tax to K-12 education. And I think we should have property taxes go up with inflation. That was changed and property taxes fund education. They have been set at a lower rate and our schools have languished for

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lack of funding.

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Thank you. Rich Nelson, two minutes.

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We are so underfunded. We do have a serious problem but let's elect individuals that could go and make a change. Let's not stay with the status quo. There are two ways, two specific models that would change the funding dramatically of education. I just heard my opponent say she was for increasing taxes. Before I ever touch tax increases, as my opponent and her colleagues and the UEA have espoused for years, I would go to two models. One's worth at least five hundred million dollars. We

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are losing literally thousands of jobs elsewhere.

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I'm part of that. My companies can't find enough talent. We underserve our students. They can't -

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they're not being hired by our companies so the structures and the domos and the others are opening offices elsewhere, taking literally thousands of jobs and thousands and millions of dollars of tax revenues elsewhere. If we would use the Edtiff model to bring them back, it totally - it pays for itself. This is not a give away program. I used to head up the incentives 25 years ago. There's a 500 million dollar increase in that I would dedicate to K through 12. I've proposed it, I'm running a model with Majority Whip Wilson, an economic model. Give

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real solutions. Don't stay with the status quo. There are other items, but we really shouldn't do as tax increases yet. But we are so under-funded. I'd also fund our first five year teachers. I'd increase them at least by 25 percent. If I could do what I do, 50 percent. I haven't heard anything out of the UEA or my opponent on doing that. We've got to get the best and the brightest to at least look at education again.

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And it's not just all about money but it's some about money.

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Thank you. Janet Connon, one minute rebuttal to you.

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OK. Well I think our state legislature over the years has lowered taxes for the people at the cost of our public education system and of our kids. In Utah, we talk about cherishing kids more than anything and that they are our most important resource. Well, we're paying lower taxes now than we paid many years ago to help fund their education. So I'm not opposed to boosting that up a little bit. BYU has done studies for years and they've

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asked people, Would you be willing to pay more taxes if it went to your children's schools to fund their education? And overwhelmingly, year after year after year people say, Yes, we want to do that funding for our kids.

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Thank you. And one minute rebuttal to Rich Nelson.

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So I'm actually in the business of changing things at the legislature, not by hundreds of thousands or millions but really a lot. And it's because 10 percent of the payroll in the state is with these 5000 tech companies.

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I am willing to use the credibility of UTC, our gold-plated reputation – to go raise additional funds for education just like our current school board member is doing. But I don't hear that out of the UEA. I don't hear that out of Janet Cannon. We can't use the old models. The whole world has changed. Everything has changed. We really need to use innovation. We are way underfunded, but tax increases are not the first thing. The first thing you need to do is change outcomes. Within one to two years, even this great senator who's here would would

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give us additional funding, significant new funding if we just changed the paradigm to outcomes and we will increase. UTC's name will go on that, we will help many others significantly raise funding for education.

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Thank you. Let's go ahead and invite you to offer up some questions. Now we have a microphone.

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How are we going to do this?

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If you wouldn't mind raising your hand or standing. we have a microphone that's going to come around to you. I just have a few requests. We ask that you ask a specific question. Please don't deliver any statements. It helps to jot it down ahead of time, as I mentioned. And then please also, you may ask a question that you really hope to hear something on from one of the other candidate but just raise your question in a way that both may answer.

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OK.

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All right go ahead.

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My question is about increased funding and Janet Cannon, you've been on the school board for how many years? 16 years? And why – how did it get that way, I mean under your guard or what is the biggest obstacle? And

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then Mr. Nelson, you speak of increased funding and besides the increase in pay for one to five years for the teachers to maintain them, what

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other ways would you use increased funding?

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OK very quickly. Hold on, hold on one second, I neglected to say we're also asking that you just please state your name and where you live as you ask the question.

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So if you wouldn't mind doing that. My name is Joanne Wong and I live in Salt Lake City.

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OK. Thank you so much. This district, district 8. Thank you. Now she asked a specific question. They are slightly different for each of you. I think what would be fair is to allow you two minutes to answer the question and then offer the other candidate a one minute rebuttal. So you'll each have two minutes round, but they'll be on the two different questions.

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Does that seem fair to the both of you? All

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right let's start with two minutes and see and see how we go.

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Well believe me, we were aware of the funding crisis in public education when I was on the state board and we did everything to lobby our legislators to get that funding changed to stop the bleeding in public education.

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What I saw was when we had a good economy, the politicians were interested in regaining their their seats and they said, Oh let's lower the property tax rate and we're going to make us so public education does not get any more money. We can't build a system in a time of the good economy. We're going to just keep you funded at this minimal - the most poorly funded in the nation - status.

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And so we were there during the good economy and then what happened? The economy turned bad. And so our poorly funded system just barely maintained was now cutting into crucial things. And we're saying we need to improve our funding and public education and they're saying well, no can do. We have some 14,000 students in our system that have never been funded because they decided not to fund growth. So think 14,000. Think how many schools, think how many teachers that is for the system to

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absorb without any money to help them. So we are funded at the legislature. There is another funding source that I don't think Utah has utilized very well. We have oil and gas and oil. Our oil and gas taxes are 3.3 percent. Surrounding states have taxes 10 percent and higher. That money could go to help our public education system because guess what? Public education is paid for by taxes and there is no getting around it.

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Thank you. Rich Nelson, you have a one minute rebuttal to Janet Cannon's answer. When you change the outcomes, these

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129 legislators will change the funding. I can promise you they are just aching to do that. You can't stay with the old system. They will not fund it at a higher level. We will change the outcomes. The outcomes are already changing. The board in place right now is a strong board, the current superintendent – quite a remarkable superintendent. But we're going to turn back this board 10 years if the right people don't get elected. Again, that's a partisan statement on my part.

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I worry about the transparency. Legislators don't fund organizations that don't have transparency. That's exactly what the board was when Janet Cannon was the vice chair when I first showed up there 10 years ago. They don't invite you into the discussion. I never could get, in 10 years of coming into the state board, significant changes ever on the agenda and my opponent was a big part of that lack of transparency. How about professionalism? Do you know how they they deal with the funding at the at the State Board of Education? Thank you. With with

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post-it notes and excel sheets. Thank you. How can you do that? We need to change it and professionalize it. Our kids are worth more than that.

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Thank you. Thank you. Time is up. Let's now move on to the question that was asked to you, Rich Nelson, then we'll actually – I'll need to hear it again as well. And then we'll offer Janet Canada a one minute rebuttal. Would you mind restating your question to Rich Nelson?

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Oh OK. You're for increased spending – I mean, increased funding for schools, for education, and you state you want to give a good salary to first to five year teachers?

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That's one way? Absolutely.

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And what are some other ways that you would use increased spending if you could get it?

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I've already done this. I don't know if you know about the Stem Action Center is? Over 40 million dollars outside of public education impacting professional development for teachers that are afraid to use digital technology. I don't know if you know that that's available because of UTC and our efforts to pass that - millions of dollars a year that was never there with the status quo. Digital tools? We have funded that. How about the app? You know, I don't have the answer of how I'm going to change all of the

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teachers salaries if that's what you're coming up with. I can fundamentally guarantee we will change funding in education in this state to become a top five education state instead of a bottom 25 or a bottom 35 or bottom 40 state. Not good enough. We talk that - ask my opponent where she gets all of her funding from for where she funded her campaign. I funded my campaign 100 percent with Utah checks mostly personal checks, private donors. 100 percent of my opponents

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funding in the primary election came from the NEA Union out of Washington - 100 percent. Not another dollar was spent. Something's wrong with that kind of funding model from Washington. I'm about local control. I'm about not raising taxes. I'm about using innovation and it's time we changed this. We don't have credibility in the status quo, the

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old school board that my opponent comes from. Education has to be way different.

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They will fund. We created - UTC created the 100 million dollar fund of funds. It's fundamentally changed the capital structure of this state.

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We'll do the same thing with education. Just give me a chance. Thank you.

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Thank you. Janet Cannon, you have a one minute rebuttal.

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Well let's talk a little about first year teacher's salaries. Teacher's salaries in the state of Utah are 49th in the United States. They're not large. Granite District, last year, was able to give \$500 signing bonus for people to come and teach in Granite. I got an e-mail from Florida offering \$10,000 to a teacher who would relocate and teach in Florida. We're just not keeping up with what needs – but the salaries are determined by the districts. So each

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district is a little different in that. And then just to respond to my opponent's jab about the UEA, I was interviewed by them. I believe in teachers. I want to support teachers. They offered me an in-kind donation for the primary which I accepted it. There was no mention of NEA. Thank you.

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At this point, we're going to continue with our audience questions. I know that several of you have questions, and to make the best use of our times, we're going to shift our clock just a little bit and we're going to offer one minute responses and one minute rebuttal to each. So hopefully you can kind of tighten up the process a little bit as we move on to the next question. We do ask though, for the sake of efficiency,

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please ask the same question of both candidates– that would just help things go a lot better. Also, please state your name and where you live.

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Thank you. Ron Hilton – Holladay, Utah. My question is, What is your position on Common Core?

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OK. He asked, What is your position on Common Core? And Janet Cannon was first to answer this woman here in the audience so we'll have Rich Nelson answering first with one minute.

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So how many in the audience are for Common Core? Raise your hands. OK. I'm not raising my hand.

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Ten years ago, I started down this avenue with Common Core – the National Governors Association. Any thing that polarizes us like it has the last many years, including the term that my opponent was on the other board, something's wrong with that.

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Whether or not the intent had – there was some very good intent.

Something is very wrong with Common Core. I'm against common core. I about raising the rigor, the stem, the steam. Our kids are being under served. They don't have a chance to get these great jobs that are going, you

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know, unfilled. We need to change that. We need to challenge these kids. When I go out and spend a day at Edison, a full day, and own the class with Jr. Achievement and change that paradigm through Junior Achievement, they

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changed me.

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They have every God-given right to learn and have an opportunity just like the other kids that are economically advantaged like my kids are. Thank you. One minute to

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Janet Cannon. All right.

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I think it's important to know that Common Core was not created by the federal government.

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It was created by the Governors and Chief State School Officers and states were allowed to accept it or not accept it. Most of the states did accept it, as did Utah, and it only affects English, Language Arts, and Mathematics. Those are the only two areas of the curriculum where we have Common Core. I think in Utah, Common Core is pretty much a dead issue. Our governor has come out against it. But what we need to replace it with are rigorous standards because when we took on Common

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Core, we increased the standards in Utah and I think having high standards for our students is essential. The question is is Common Core doing what it was supposed to do, which is to graduate kids who are career or college ready and there are some issues around that as well.

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Thank you.

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We'll offer a one minute rebuttal to Rich Nelson if you care to take it.

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Common Core is very misunderstood, well intended. I would like to clear up another issue that was misstated. If you look at Lieutenant Governor's filings, the check that Janet Cannon, the in-kind she she received - \$11,000, I don't know, \$12,000 along with six other candidates - Hundred percent for four candidates came from the NEA in Washington, not the UEA. They cut a check for \$300,000 and gave it to UEA. They are state organization. This is called Super PAC money.

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Do I like it? No, I don't like it. I think it's wrong. I think it's a conflict.

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That's how my opponent was funded. Not by the UEA. They got their money directly from a check from the NEA and you can look that up on the Lieutenant Governor's site. Thank

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you. And one minute to Janet Cannon.

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Well if it came from NEA, I certainly didn't know about it. I was in contact with the UEA and they offered to do a couple of mailings for me which they did, and some ads, which they did. And I want to be supportive of Utah teachers. I think Utah teachers in our state have been very disrespected. I think they're poorly paid and I think they are - the only good thing that Utah Public Education has going for right at this time - without the nobility

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of our teachers in the classroom, I can't imagine what would happen to Utah kids seeking education. They do it in a very difficult environment.

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Thank you. Let's move on to our next question.

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Go ahead, raise your hand or stand. So my name is Donnel Ponds.

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I live in Salt Lake and I teach here at the school everyday. I'd like to ask you both about the fundamental skill of reading and what you might be able to do about dyslexia and other reading outcomes for students.

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OK. Question on what you'll be able to do about dyslexia and and - how

did you phrase it – other, and reading outcomes for kids.

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We'll start with Janet Cannon with one minute.

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OK. My son is dyslexic. I'm a speech pathologist. I can honestly tell you that I believe wholeheartedly in phonetic learning of reading. In teaching kids phonemes, in the skills, if they have those skills they can read anything.

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And as far as reading outcomes for kids go, I think it's imperative that we have every student in our schools being able to read on grade level by third grade. Research shows us that if we don't have kids with that reading skill, that they are going to struggle for the entire rest of their school career. So having additional funding, having help in the classrooms – I've spent years going in and reading with first graders – everything we can do to help get them reading, I'm in favor and let's use phonics.

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Thank you. One minute to Rich Nelson.

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So if you had an app along with your 30,000 colleagues and you could reach out to industry and parents in the next six months to find a resource to come into your classroom or to work with that student, would you be interested?

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Absolutely. UTC has a foundation called the Stem Action. It actually comes out of the Stem Action Center. This is the best intended consequence – all funded by private industry. 30,000 teachers lined up with tens of thousands from industry and parents through an app. We've got 12 developers working on it right now. Thank you, UTC and the leadership. It changes things for complex things exactly like what you're saying. The 30,000 teachers we've got are so under appreciated and underpaid. That's why we got to change the status

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quo. Status quo doesn't work. Teachers need to be paid a lot more, I agree.

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But they also need these other resources and if you want to know what that's called, it's called Stem MX – Stem Mentor Exchange. Thank you.

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We've just set that foundation up. I will give a one minute rebuttal

to Janet Cannon.

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All right well, as STEM stands for Science Technology Engineering and Math. Hopefully you're able to read so that you can engage in those other activities. Also, I think STEM is great but I would love to add a to STEM and make it STEAM, because I think we need to have the Arts added to education for our kids. I saw a little saying that said, Our Earth without art is just eh. And I kind of think our

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education without arts, without bringing all of the wonderful things that they add to education, is just there.

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Thank you. And one minute to Rich Nelson.

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There is no question that reading comes first. If you can't read, there's nothing you can do. You can project the prison population by what happens in the third grade. That's why I go to Edison. That's why there are 200 Title 1 schools that I'm recruiting sponsors for. You don't have a chance, you know that. We've got great teachers. We've just got to change it from the old status quo, lack of transparency, lack of professionalism, poorly funded. Let's go do something very different with a very responsive legislature.

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Let's not use the old model. Just change the outcomes. Just show the legislators in the next year or two. We can get better results by doing it differently using the Stem Action Center – UTC created that. Over \$40 million of innovation into the classroom outside of K – 12.

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I mean, it's for these kids and for those teachers.

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Thank you. You're right up against the time.

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Let's get our next question. Hi, my name is Desiree Preston and I'm from Murray. And my question is from both of you how you feel about individualized education programs such as – that are that are at home that are going on in the state right now such My Tech High. So individualized education programs like My Tech High that are used in the home is

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specifically your question? OK. Let's go with one minute to Rich Nelson.

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Kids learn online.

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They don't learn the same way with the old chalkboard I learned with. These

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innovative charter schools and online capabilities have got to be embraced by us. That's why we went out and raised money for teachers that are afraid to use – not afraid, they just have never been given the advantage. There are generationally removed like I am from technology. So let's teach them how to use technology in the classroom.

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These are extraordinary opportunities for our students. Why wouldn't you learn online? These kids are a heck of a lot smarter than their parents, even if they were out at Edison, if they have access to technology. We just we can do this –

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You can either keep doing it and then complaining about we're the lowest funded state or you can go do something about it. And unfortunately, the NEA and UEA haven't done that. They just haven't done that, unfortunately. I wish they would.

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Thank you.

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And one minute to Janet Cannon. And tell me again the name of the program you're asking about? My Tech High, which is home education online course. It's a program. It's a program. OK. Well I think

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that if you have kids that are home schooled and a lot of them, I guess, if they have that online thing they're doing it a lot in the home. You kind of find, at least my experiences, that these kids kind of fall into two categories. You have some that are really well taken care of by parents and these kids really achieve wonderfully high things and do outstanding, or you have the parents who just kind of don't want to mess with it and those kids don't do so good. I think that

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we have a wonderful opportunity to individualize education for kids by using some of these online programs. I think we need to have our teachers learn to be the guide on the side instead of the sage on the

stage. But it gives an opportunity to individualize for each student where they're at

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and that is a marvelous thing. Thank you. One minute rebuttal to Rich Nelson.

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I love online education of teachers.

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I'm willing to serve. I'm willing to give my best years to change, not for change sake just because it's not working. It's working ok, especially for those who are economically advantaged.

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It's not working well for the 200 Title 1 schools or the many more at-risk schools or

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warehouse. They have every right and opportunity and ability

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to learn. Online is a great way to do that. We've got to be innovative. We're Utah. We are number one in everything

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but education. Everything. We need to be a top five education state, not a bottom

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25 education state which we've been for the last 20 or 30 or 40 years. It's not all about funding first. It's outcomes, then it's immediately funding. You go change that

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with a number of us that have the relationships, to change that with the legislature. They will fund at a significantly higher level without raising taxes first. And one minute rebuttal to Janet Cannon.

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Well I think technology in education is the way to go. I have two daughters who work for Apple Computer. I've been on an Apple computer since 1984 when the first one came out. I love technology. I think it's the way of the future. I want it for our kids. I think we can use technology to change our one size fits all education model into a model that's personalized for every student that allows every student to move at their own rate, that enhances the capability of what

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our teachers can do for our kids. Thank you. We're running short on time so let's do one final audience question and then we'll ask

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for a wrap up from the candidates. My name is Curtis Ponds and I live in Salt Lake City. The last question about reading – the

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answers were a little underwhelming. One of you talked about apps, STEM, arts. Not a whole lot about reading. Let's try this one more time. Dyslexia is by far the most common learning disability affecting about one in five people. That's a lot of people. About 40 percent of our graduating seniors read below grade level. There's nothing our kids are taught in school that's worthwhile if our kids aren't taught to read well. Yet, teachers certifications contain very little on the topic. What will you do to make sure that teachers are trained in dyslexia

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remediation to teach struggling readers, students to read well? So specifically you're asking, what would they do to train teachers in dyslexia

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remediation and helping other struggling readers. Exactly. OK. All right. We'll go first to Janet Cannon with one minute. Well maybe I can tell you some of my personal experiences.

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I had a high IQ child who was dyslexic

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and so nothing worked for him. He wasn't low enough to get any help from anybody so we went to private people to get help and they said, teach him how to compensate for these skills. So instead of having him spell a word – he could spell a word ten different ways and never the same way twice. And yet, his teacher had spelling tests for him in his English class and he couldn't get out of those. The other people said, put him on a computer, let him use a spell checker, put him on a computer. We have

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Dragon where you can just get your thoughts out, and that kind of thing. That's the kind of remediation training, I think, is really helpful for those kids. And as far as as getting it into the schools, yeah, we need to do that. That comes from our colleges and universities are the place that has to happen. Thank you. One minute to Rich Nelson.

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I would tap the 850 councilors in the state. I've done that the last five

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years. They don't have a clue. They haven't had a clue what the opportunities are. They're dealing with so many

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disciplinary issues. I would tap those 850 councilors that I've taken and dozens and dozens of CEOs, including the governor, just last year to the Councilor Summit. and dozens and dozens of CEOs, including the governor, just last year to the Councilor Summit. I'd use that and I'd significantly change funding and I'd

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have specialists to help them. This is a serious issue. No, I wouldn't stick I'm at a keyboard and just say, Go get 'em.

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You clearly understand this a lot better than I do. I would make sure that there are parents and industry councils within the State Board of Education. I, for 10 years, was excluded by the state board from their discussions. I can always get my two minutes if I hurried on the front end. We fundamentally change K - 12 including raise

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the English level for a high school grad and math and science that hadn't been raised for years. But I would change that through funding and the counselors. Thank you, we're wrapped on your time.

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Would you like a one minute rebuttal to - Janet Cannon? Yes. When you say have the counselors address the problem? Our counselors

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are way way overworked and their case loads are huge. They can't do what they need to do and why they would be doing reading, I don't know. Like I said, higher ed is where we need to get our teachers trained to do that. Rich says, Let's bring in support staff for teachers. That's what happens when you have such a poorly funded system is our teachers are alone in the classroom - the largest classrooms in the nation. And they have all of these kids who are desperate for help and they don't have support staff to help them. Money makes a difference. Money will make a

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difference in our kid's education. And Rich said he always got his two minutes at the State Board of Education and he did because when I got there we had no public input process at the State Board of Education

and I said, That's wrong. Anybody who wants to come and have the ear of the board should have the ear of the board and I got a public participation happening at the board. Thank you. Final rebuttal to Rich Nelsen. One minute.

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Yes. Unfortunately, it's still a serious lack of transparency from

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the board. I would add transparency to that.

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I worked for Reagan, Ronald Reagan, when I was 32-years-old. He inspired

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me. He changed me. He's is the best leader we've ever had in this country in decades. We need those kind of leaders, those kind of inspirational leaders that are willing to try some things that are different. We can't keep saying we're the worst funded state and not do anything about it. You keep going back to the legislature with the same story, you're going to keep getting the same answer. You know, you may get two or three hundred million a year but it's not good enough. Go raise it \$500 million a year. Go get another billion a year. Go be a top five education state.

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We're a top - we're number one in everything else except

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education because of the way we deal with education. It's just unacceptable, the status quo. education because of the way we deal with education. It's just unacceptable, the status quo. Thank you. We are going to give the candidates a brief one minute

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to wrap up and kind of summarize their candidacy. Before we do that, I'm going to go ahead and wrap up for myself. I want to thank you so much for coming out tonight. We would like to thank our online audience. We hope that you look up this audio. Look up these transcripts on KSL.com and share them with your friends. It's very easy to share that on social media and we really hope that you do that. We'd also like to thank our sponsors: United Way of Salt Lake, Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, the Hinckley Institute of Politics, The Sutherland Institute, KSL.com, as well as the American International School of Utah, our wonderful hosts for the evening. We're going to give each

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candidate a one minute wrap up and then we'll adjourn and we'll begin

with Rich Nelson. It's a privilege to run. You see things differently. This is the third time I've run for an office,

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certainly first in this kind of a scope. So thank you for coming. Thank you for being interested enough to – go down to the State Board of Education and help. They'd love to have you, at least the current board.

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I've got a track record of changing complex things in this state – fundamentally change the early stage capital structure of the state. Why do you think we've got so much tech going on? Number six state

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in the country and venture capital from being number 40th. Why don't we do the same thing with education? Instead of being number 40th or 30m 50 in the country, it's not good enough for the kids, it's not good enough for the teachers. We're better. We're better than that. I would hope that you'd support my candidacy. Thank you. Thank you. And one minute wrap up to Janet Cannon.

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Well I want to thank you for being here, for being involved, for being

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civically minded. You're what we hope Utah students will be when after they graduate. I'm a candidate who will advocate for our best and our brightest students as well as our neediest exceptional children and Utah's school children. I'm the candidate who will promote an advocate for fine arts curriculum in our elementary schools. I'm a candidate who will try to address the teacher shortage by giving our teachers better pay, good benefits, and the respect they deserve. I'm the candidate who will be an advocate for better public school funding and increased state's effort

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to fund our kids education. I'd appreciate your support. Thank you. Thank you.

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Could we have a round of applause for our candidates tonight?

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Could we have a round of applause for our candidates tonight?