

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CANDIDATE QUESTIONS**

2012

1. Describe the qualifications and experiences you would bring to the State Board of Education and how they would be an asset to the work of the Board.

In college, I debated between being an elementary teacher and a lawyer. I became a lawyer, but retained my interest in education. In 2004, I joined the Freedom Academy Governing Board and have remained on the board ever since. I am currently the Chief Administrative Officer. Eight years of experience give me some insight into the promise and challenge facing educators. I have been on several boards and understand how they work and how they can become dysfunctional. I have experience and understanding of educational laws and regulations.

2. Name three key things you would like to accomplish as a member of the State Board of Education.

First, recognize, reward and repeat successes by expediting state test results. Second, focus resources on teaching, especially to struggling students (limited English proficiency, disabled and minority) and away from administration, paperwork, and shifting mandates. Third, maximize parental and community involvement in education.

3. What do you think are the two biggest issues or challenges facing public education in the state of Utah? Why?

One of our educational challenges is being competitive in the global marketplace. Our graduation rates are too low, too many students are not ready for college at graduation. Our mathematics and science education does not compare well with the other leading nations. We need to improve. Another challenge is making the most of limited financial resources. Utah has a high birth rate, a low percentage of private schools, and a high percentage of untaxable federal lands. We will need to continue to do more with less.

4. Describe the effects you would make to communicate with your constituents and bring all stakeholders (state board, local boards, legislature, educators, parents) together to enhance public education.

I will rotate monthly meetings with superintendents, school boards or PTA/PTO associations in my district. I will make my contact information available and promptly respond to anyone who contacts me.

5. What would you do to improve the academic preparation of students as well as their transition to higher education or other post-high-school training?

Prioritize math/science/engineering and writing/reading skills by measuring performance and assuring accountability for all students at the college-ready level. Second, measuring performance and assure accountability with the struggling students (limited English proficiency, disabled and minority) including testing and school-by-school dropout rates.