

**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.

I have spent the better part of the last 20 years running a small technology business, we've weathered the dot com bubble burst and a host of other challenges including the current real estate induced financial fiasco. As a father of five from pre-school through High School I am able to connect the dots so to speak as to the real world challenges and issues facing students and our system of education today.

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

First would be to "secure and perpetuate" freedom as defined in our constitution. I would do this by second, ensuring that all students learn to read and write and become proficient in math and sciences. Third, I would like to focus more on implementing technology that will help us achieve these objectives.

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

I think the polarization of ideas and ideology has created at times a toxic environment where the vilification of one's opponent and the triumph of "MY" idea are paramount. I do not know the root cause, but almost always these issues can be resolved by reasonable people reaching out and building relationships of understanding. Our children and education system deserve better.

The second major obstacle is funding, technology often allows us to do more with less, but always requires an investment – usually up front with some associated risk. We cannot implement new technologies unless we are willing to first invest in them.

4. Describe the efforts 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 continue to do as I have done, and that is reduce the animosity between groups by meeting with stakeholders. A simple example is a regular dinner that we (myself and a few other likeminded Board Members) have scheduled with legislators and other key stakeholders. It is a small gathering at a small table where ideas and concerns are shared and relationships are built and nourished – this has been key in helping open lines of communication. Another example would be that of the Coach Wong situation where a complex set of circumstances requiring careful navigation is essential in helping resolve difficult issues.

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?

Perhaps I am oversimplifying but more rigorous standards, and higher quality instruction are paramount here. In short, I would make kids work harder.