

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CANDIDATE QUESTIONS**

Bette Arial

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.

My husband, Rick, and I have raised four children and have ten grandchildren who attend public schools. I served as a trustee of Dixie State College for eight years and on the Utah State Board of Education for four years. I resigned my position on the board to accept employment outside of my district and would like to serve again. I have extensive knowledge of the Utah State legislature and the lobby community due to my experience as a Vice President of Government Affairs for eleven years. I was a college level adjunct instructor of Modern Dance and Physical Education and taught privately, as well. I care about the education of every child in the state of Utah and believe we should use creative and innovative ideas to energize and improve our schools.

2. Name three key things you would like to accomplish as a member of the State Board of Education.
 - **Prepare students to contribute to society through meaningful employment.**
 - **Give parents more responsibility for their children's educations.**
 - **Use flexibility and innovation to reach each child.**
3. What do you think are the two biggest issues or challenges facing public education in the state of Utah? Why?
 - **School Funding**
 - **Utah has large families with lower than average income.**
 - **Utah has limited tax base and taxable industry**
 - **Implementation of foreign language immersion for all students**
 - **A proven tool to enhance and expand learning ability**
 - **To ensure competitiveness in an international economy**
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.
 - **Utilize personal friendships with state leaders**
 - **Social media**
 - **Visit schools and make personal contact**
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?

Engage students with apprenticeship/mentor options, moving them toward fields of study and work in which they are passionate and motivated; so they will stay in school and graduate. I believe in comprehensive, liberal arts education but with a practical application.