

Sample Questions to Ask Board of Education (BOE) Members Seeking Election/Reelection

1. When you hear *inclusion, diversity, and equity*, how do you believe special education students fit into these principles that our district aims to uphold? How, as a BOE member, do you intend to keep students with disabilities as a part of the conversation in all aspects of the decisions being made? How can you use your role as a BOE member to ensure inclusion and equity for ALL children?
2. Special education students make up x% of all students in our district and do not exist in a vacuum within the district or our school community. Please describe what strategies you would support to eliminate the silos that can develop between general education and special education?
3. When staffing shortages (paraprofessionals, reading specialists, therapists, special education teachers) affect children with special education programming, the district may be legally out of compliance with those children's Individual Education Programs (IEPs). What measures do you think the BOE can take to help ensure that the students with disabilities receive supports and services they are entitled to?
4. Educating a student with a disability cost more money than educating a general education student. This cost impacts the school budget. As a BOE member, how will you ensure that budget cuts do not come at the expense of students with disabilities?
5. Ongoing, two-way communication between the school district and parents is key to building strong partnership and trust. In your opinion as a BOE member/prospective BOE member, how important is parent input/feedback in shaping the district policy? How do you solicit input from parents on policy that directly impacts students with disabilities and their families? What are your recommendations for improving communication?
6. Share any experiences, personal or otherwise, that you believe speak to your commitment to serving the students who receive special education programming in our district.
7. If elected, what do you see as your learning curve? How will you foster a spirit of collaboration between your colleagues? How will you strengthen the relationship between families and the district?

Additional sample questions for incumbent BOE candidates seeking re-election:

1. As a BOE member, what policies/decisions were you directly involved in that pertained to the special education students in our district?
2. What BOE committee(s) do you chair? How many committee meetings have you held in the past 18 months? What shapes the agenda for your meetings? The public is

encouraged to attend committee meetings - have parents and community members attended these committee meetings? What issues were raised through the committee meetings and what were outcomes from those meetings?

3. If re-elected, how will you approach the next 3 years differently? What will you do the same?