

First State Educate's 2026 School Board Candidate Survey

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Christina

School board members play an important role in guiding the direction of public school districts. The questions below are designed to help voters understand how candidates think about governance, decision-making, and student success. While candidates may express their ideas in different ways, strong responses often reflect several core principles of effective school board leadership.

Public school boards are responsible for setting direction, overseeing district leadership, and stewarding public resources on behalf of the community. **Why do you want to serve on your local school board?**

I want to serve the Christina School Board because students, staff, and taxpayers deserve a stable body of leadership that can be trusted to self-govern and make sound decisions for the improvement of the district with due diligence and transparency. I bring over 10yrs of non-profit executive board leadership to the role, with experience in board governance, strategic planning, project management, and community outreach. I am also a business owner and have an AOS degree in Mind Body Psychology. Serving the community with yoga and mindfulness programs since 2012 through POSH YOGA.

I want to serve on the board to collaborate my experiences and skills with other board members, to promote community awareness, and advocate for ideas that will positively impact student test scores, literacy programs, truancy prevention, attendance incentives, and strengthen the school and district relationship with the parents. I would also like to be a part of the ongoing conversation on district separation.

School board members make decisions that affect thousands of students and millions of public dollars. **What principles will guide how you make those decisions?**

Three guiding principles that I not only apply to my life but have uplifted in my last 10yrs of board governance is Equity, Transparency, and Integrity.

For the Christina school district decisions must be made through an equity lens, ensuring that resources are allocated based on student need, not just equal distribution. I will prioritize the needs of our traditionally under-served populations including students of color, ELL students, and those receiving special education services. Equity means giving every child the specific tools they need to reach the same high standard of "Christina Excellence."

All school board business should occur openly and fully accessible to the public. Parents deserve full transparency and no surprises about board meetings. When meeting materials are provided well in advance, the community, parents and teachers can offer input and not feel excluded or overlooked. We also need full transparency on what programs are truly not impacting student outcomes and what are other options we can collaboratively explore.

In board leadership, Integrity isn't just about being a good person, it is a mechanical necessity for effective governance. Strong integrity keeps me committed to asking the hard questions, and is the bedrock to being an informed steward of public funds. This ensures that every vote I cast will be in the best interest of the students, not for personal or political gain.

In my 10 years of board service, I've learned that integrity is the only currency that matters. It's the commitment to stay in the room when the conversation gets hard, to follow the data where it leads, and for Christina school board, to always put the student's at the center of the boardroom table. I don't just talk about principles; I have a decade-long track record of living them through transparent, fiscally responsible, and ethical leadership.

School boards are ultimately responsible for ensuring districts improve outcomes for students. **What student outcomes should your district improve over the next four years?**

1. Improve Literacy
2. Chronic Absenteeism
3. Reduce Disciplinary Gap
4. Graduate Readiness

Our \$300M+ budget should be a direct reflection of these priorities. If a program isn't moving the needle on these four metrics, we must have the courage to audit it and reallocate those funds to what works.

School boards must work across differences and remain connected to the communities they serve. **How will you work with fellow board members, district leadership, and families to move your district forward?**

Drawing on my 10 years of executive board experience, I will use a "Collaboration-First" framework to work with my colleagues, district leadership, and our families.

I will advocate for a formal Board Governance Agreement that commits all members to civil discourse and professional norms, if not already adopted. We may disagree on policy, but we must be unified in our commitment to the board's legal and ethical duties.

I will strictly adhere to the principle that the Board sets the "What" (the goals and policies) and the Superintendent manages the "How" (the daily operations). I will support our leadership by providing clear, measurable goals and ensure they have the resources to meet them.

I fully support the district's 2025 move toward standardized Community Listening Sessions. I will work to ensure these are held at varied times and locations (including Wilmington and Newark) with multilingual support, ensuring that "equity" is a practice.

When a parent speaks at a board meeting or a town hall, they deserve more than a "thank you for your comment." I will push for a system where the district provides a "You Spoke, We Acted" report—demonstrating exactly how community input shaped the final policy or budget decision.

School boards are making decisions that affect students and district resources. **How should board members use data, research, and community input to guide those decisions?**

Before making decisions that directly impact students and direct resources, we need to ask the following questions:

1. Does the local data show this is a priority?
2. Is this solution proven to work elsewhere?
3. Does this reflect the values and needs of our diverse families?

School board members communicate decisions to the public. **How will you ensure the community has an honest, clear picture of district conditions and can see how the board is making decisions?**

My 10 years of executive board experience has taught me that the public can handle difficult news, what they cannot handle is being kept in the dark. I will push for board meeting materials and "Board Briefs" to be posted at least 72 hours in advance, in both English and Spanish.

When we make a major vote, on the budget, a new curriculum, or redistricting, the public should see a summary of the data, the research, and the community input used to reach that conclusion as standard practice.

School boards often bring together members with different perspectives. **How would you approach working collaboratively with other board members while keeping the focus on the district's long-term goals for students?**

I will advocate for an annual Strategic Alignment Retreat. In my tenure with national and international non-profit boards, we held an annual retreat style meeting that not only helped ensure the alignment on the direction, vision and mission of our work, but it also promoted cohesion, conscious relationships and kindness amongst board members.

I will demonstrate active listening and empathy when collaboratively working with other board members. I will also offer a set of guidelines for the board to adopt called "The Four Agreements".

The Four Agreements, derived from Toltec wisdom by don Miguel Ruiz, are a code of conduct designed to eliminate self-limiting beliefs and foster personal freedom, happiness, and love. The four principles are:

1. Be Impeccable with Your Word: Speak with integrity, say only what you mean, and avoid using words to gossip or speak against yourself.
2. Don't Take Anything Personally: What others say and do is a projection of their own reality. When you become immune to the opinions and actions of others, you avoid needless suffering.
3. Don't Make Assumptions: Find the courage to ask questions and express what you really want to avoid misunderstandings, sadness, and drama.
4. Always Do Your Best: Your best is constantly changing, but simply doing your best in any given moment prevents self-judgment, self-abuse, and regret.

Please upload your Bio (summary of resume or professional experience). We will post your Bio on our candidate page. *

FSE, Sams BIO - ...

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Please upload your picture- high resolution preferred *

Amina Headshot...

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