



**Lincoln Public Schools Candidate Questionnaire**  
(Please feel free to attach your answers on a separate piece of paper)

**1). The Lincoln Public Schools consolidated tax levy is currently \$1.37 per \$100 of valuation. Overall, Lincoln Public Schools receives 63% of all property tax revenue in Lincoln, the City of Lincoln receives 14%, Lancaster County receives 14%, and all other taxing authorities share the remaining 8%.**

**Do you feel this is the appropriate level of funding for Lincoln Public Schools?**  
[AND]

**Is the way, we as a community, currently allocate the overall property tax levy appropriate?**

Although LPS receives the lion's share of property tax revenue in Lincoln, that is their primary source of funding. At the current level, I believe it to be an appropriate level of funding for Lincoln Public Schools. That doesn't mean, however, that changes can't be made as needed, however I don't envision a need for drastic changes. I believe the way we as a community currently allocate property tax levies works well.

**2). In our Six Statements of Core Policy, the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce encourages fiscal responsibility and the pursuit of government efficiencies.**

**In what ways do you plan to encourage fiscal responsibility and efficiencies in the Lincoln Public Schools System?**

Lincoln Public Schools does a good job educating our children with the funding they have available. Having said that, I do believe there is room for improvement in the quality of education provided to our children with the resources provided to them by the taxpayers. I do believe that additional efficiencies can be found, particularly as it relates to funding that does not directly relate to educating our students (such as athletics, administration, etc.)

**3). Personnel costs are most often the largest driving force behind municipal budgets.**

**As a member of the Board of Education, how will you work to keep personnel cost manageable?**

**[ AND ]**

**Should the district move to a “merit-based” system for salary increases?**

I believe very strongly in merit-based pay for teachers. Anything else merely fosters complacency and inadequacy. Great teachers must be retained and compensated fairly, and poor teachers have no business educating our future generation. Although I would not necessarily advocate a hiring freeze, I would push for clear and solid justification before additional staff was hired.

**4). What are some ways in which the business community can better partner with the public schools to meet the ever-growing need for an educated workforce in Lincoln?**

Many programs are already in place between the business community and LPS. Junior Achievement is one such organization. Many schools claim to partner with local businesses but very little comes of it. Programs such as those should be expanded considerably.

**5). What will be the biggest challenge facing the Lincoln Public School system over the next 5 years?**

Balancing a quality education with challenging financial times will be the largest challenge in the coming years. Sadly, I believe it to only be a matter of time before our country's economic challenges begin to affect Lincoln and Nebraska on a more serious level. That, obviously, would affect LPS's funding. We need a school board who can courageously make hard decisions even when they may not be popular.

**6). What do you see as your role as a member of the Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education?**

As a member of the Lincoln Public Schools Board of Education, I would see my role as fighting to restore a focus on core educational areas while appropriately using the funds which taxpayers entrust to the school system. Although I graduated a few years ago, I believe LPS has somewhat lost focus on their reason for existence – providing a solid education to our children. I saw it 12 years ago as a student and have no reason to believe it has changed. LPS, in my opinion, focuses too much on feelings, self esteem, athletics, diversity and extra-curricular activities. Schools should be focused first and foremost on the proverbial three R's, not about how you feel, or making you read a book because the author fits a specific demographic. I will push and fight for that.