

School Board Candidate Questions

Please complete and return in the enclosed envelope or email to ContactUs@illinoisfamily.org or fax to 708-781-9376.

Thank you in advance!

1. What is your name, county, email and cell number? Patrick Oliphant, Will County

poliphant28@gmail.com 708.717.3395

2. What is your town and school district number?

Frankfort, Tinley Park, Mokena - Summit Hill 161 School District

3. Should biological males who identify as female be able to use the girls bathrooms and locker rooms?

Yes _____ No X

I believe that students and adults alike should use the private washroom that matches the physical gender that they are born with. I have to imagine that this is only a somewhat serious concern in grades 7 and 8 (Jr. High) For adolescents, puberty is a difficult time to go through. Subjecting them to students of the other gender in the washroom environment to me is unethical.

4. Should school staff use the preferred pronoun and first name of a child who identifies as the opposite gender they were born with?

Yes X No _____

I believe that the role of schools is put students in the best position possible to learn and grow. Our children are our most precious community members; they are our future. We must ensure that we put our children in the best possible environment to do so. Accounting for the feelings of a child is critical for this. Encouraging students to be at ease, and know there is a place for them in the community is critical for their development and ability to receive an education that not only teaches them, but challenges them mentally to grow into the best student they can be.

5. Should biological boys compete against biological girls in school sports?

Yes _____ No X

This is a hard no for me on the basis of gender identification. Regardless of how one identifies, there are physiological both male and female bodies that determine how they compete. I do believe there would be an exception in the instance where females wanted to compete against males in sports like football and wrestling.

6. Should students and employees be forced to mask and get vaxxed to attend government schools?

Yes X No _____

This is an outdated and loaded question. Assuming you are referencing the pandemic, which unfortunately took the lives of over 1 million Americans in approximately 18 months. Yes, I supported mask mandates not only to protect the children but their parents and grandparents at home. I believe in the sanctity of preserving life and the critical importance of a family unit. Maintaining the lives of the entire family unit is critical, and the pandemic was a once in a century event. Protecting lives of the living is critically important, especially when severe illness and death are preventable. I am unwavering on this issue. Public health is a right for all.



7. Should children be taught there are more than two genders?

Yes _____ No X

There are two physical genders that humans, and most all biological species are born with. That being said, natural laws of biology by their very nature produce variances in biological species in their DNA, but this does not affect the physical gender one is born with.

8. To increase equity, should school districts eliminate honors classes?

Yes _____ No X

This is a no brainer. We must challenge our students intellectually to become the best students that they can possibly be. We must also create an environment that challenges and grows our students based on merit, accomplishment, competition and equal opportunity. Eliminating honors classes would be unspeakably detrimental to that cause.

9. Should school nurses or other school staff be prohibited from helping students obtain an abortion during or after school hours?

Yes _____ No _____

With all do respect, this question is better suited for our HS district. I can assure you that Summit Hill 161 School District, a grade school district of Pre K-8, is not running an abortion clinic.

10. Should school administrators be required to notify the parents of students who have expressed concerns about their gender identity?

Yes _____ No X

No. This is an issue for the family unit. The parent/child relationship is one I value above all else. This should be an issue discussed by and resolved by the family.

11. Are you endorsed by or seeking the endorsement of the Illinois Education Association or other teacher's union? Had you previously been endorsed, or previously received any campaign funding from a Teacher's Union, or an affiliate of a Teacher's Union (i.e. other Government Union(s) or NGO)?

Yes _____ No X

Please do not let my answer of NO be deceiving. I am a proud member of the Local 399 Stationary Engineers and am unapologetically pro Union. I have and carry the core values and principles of Union in my heart; equal opportunity, accountability, excellence in training and application, fair and honest compensation for fair and honest work. Fair treatment. These are principles that our communities are built on and are necessary for thier growth and development.



12. Do you support following the National Sex Education Standards that teach masturbation and LGBTQ sexual behavior in K-12?

Yes _____ No _____

This is a loaded and skewed question, so I am not marking an answer. I do believe in sexual education. Humans learn about masturbation on their own, posing a question about it in this manner insinuates schools are responsible for creating this concept. I reject that assumption on its merit. The same applies for LGBTQ "behavior".

I do believe that homosexuality is genetic. I believe, unapologetically, that homosexuality is very much so a natural development and that all humans BORN that way are entitled to the same rights liberties and opportunity as all heterosexual humans. Period.

13. Do you support or oppose live-streaming cameras in the classroom for parental monitoring?

Yes _____ No _____

In the right circumstances I would support that. During the pandemic, parents were able to see exactly how educators conducted their classes, even if it was remote or blended attendance.

There are cases and instances in which it would be helpful. I believe emphatically that this should be a policy decided on a district by district basis.

14. As taxpayers, should parents be able to review all textbook and supplement materials used in the classroom?

Yes X No _____

What I believe you are describing is textbook (no pun intended) parent involvement in their child's education. By the very nature of this process, I believe all parents should already be reviewing the textbooks and supplemental materials as the parents should be helping their children with their education at home. The comprehensive education process is a partnership between educators and parents to help the child's education.

15. Do you support informing parents of the sex education instruction materials and giving them the option of opting their children out of participation?

Yes X No _____

This is also a no brainer. I am firmly behind parental and family rights.

