

**Eling Response to SWWEducation.org Questions re: Hockinson School Board
June 20, 2021**

1. What is your position on Critical Race Theory being required training for teachers and potentially being taught in schools?

I do not oppose continuing education for teachers, but the devil is in the details with respect to CRT. I would oppose training for teachers if that training fails to critically examine the underlying philosophy of CRT, fails to provide an appropriate context with America's founding principles and fails to critically examine CRT's views on free enterprise and the family. I would apply the same criteria with regard to curriculum. Alternate views should be fairly presented. I do not have confidence that CRT is appropriate for grades below high school.

2. What is your position/views on Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) being mandated by the Legislature and the State Superintendent of Schools.

It depends on what is taught and at what age. I have not taken an in-depth look at the OSPI's material. Based on descriptions of CSE that I have read which have led me to conclude this program is not just about biology or health, I believe much of it is inappropriate for a public school curriculum.

Two principles are important. First, moral responsibility. Because sex and morality are intrinsically linked, it is parents, not the Legislature or the State Superintendent, who have the primary responsibility for educating kids about sex and should have the final word on this topic. In addition, many parents have religious or moral objections to what I understand may be taught to their kids. By the same token, would it be fair to mandate that only religious views on sex be taught in public schools to the exclusion of all other views? No, it's not. Second, necessity. Is there currently some sex crisis? Assuming there is some crisis in sex education, is there any proof that this State mandated program averts the crisis and is there any proof that the programs as designed or executed won't exacerbate the problems or create new unintended ones?

3. What is your position/view on mandated vaccination for Covid 19 (or similar situations in the future)? i.e what if there is a requirement for proof of vaccination for students to return to school?

Vaccination of children for COVID should be a parental decision. The COVID vaccines, unlike other childhood vaccines, have been released on an emergency authorization and the long-term effects on the young have not been adequately studied. Parents are the people in the best position to know what is best for their children especially with emerging evidence that therapeutic treatments are available if a child did get COVID. Winning a school board election does not automatically impart the wisdom to make such a potentially life-changing decision for someone else's kids.

I have no comment on similar future situations. These questions need to be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

4. What is your position on the continued requirement for masks by students while in school?

I would vote to end the requirement unless public health officials came before the Board to make the case why masks should be required. At a minimum, I would expect the experts to explain a) why studies

showing masks are ineffective are wrong [as well as the logical corollary, why studies showing masks are effective are correct], b) why school children should wear masks if there is little to no risk to them, and c) why available therapeutics are not an adequate alternative. The public deserves to know the basis for "proclamations" and for "guidance" and has the right to question the basis for such pronouncements.

5. What is your position/view on "equity, equality and inclusion" in the public schools?

Diversity, equity and inclusion is problematic. If elected as a school board member, I would use the statutory definitions of diversity, equity and inclusion as set forth in ESSB 5044 even if those definitions are not what the public thinks they mean and are subtly misleading.

Furthermore, I think it is difficult to apply DEI to a school district. A school district is as diverse as the people who live in the District. The District really has nothing to do with that. If you mean diversity in culture, that diversity will surely disappear when parents decide that their culture is not respected by the District and opt out.

Inclusion? Question: has anyone been excluded from HSD or from any HSD program? If not excluded, a fair conclusion is that people are included. Or does "inclusion" mean something else entirely?

Equity is a different proposition. Equity implies an adjudication and the imposition of remedy to right some wrong. I think school districts are not well-equipped to oversee such adjudications. The purpose of public schools is not to right wrongs. The purpose of the schools is to educate and nurture students

6. What is your position/views on Common Core?

Common core is a failure.

7. What is your position/views on Social Emotional Learning?

First, is there any evidence that all or even a majority of the students in the Hockinson School District suffer from some social and emotional deficit and, further, that the existence of such a deficit requires a State-mandated comprehensive SEL program? Second, has OSPI provided any support for the conclusion that the its' SEL program even works for students with such deficits? Third, is this program appropriate for all grade levels?

8. What are the top 3 challenges you would address in your first elected year and why?

I don't have a list of challenges. But with the 13% decline in enrollment in the District, something is wrong. Have parents' lost confidence in the District? Have some parents opted out because they are opposed to mandates? Is it frustration with COVID protocols? It makes sense to find out.

The primary problem is the State mandates. Those who claim the schools "indoctrinate" their children have some cause for that belief. The State's mandates [in short, its' decision to ignore the fact there is no consensus on what is being mandated] will materially degrade public education and jeopardize the future of public education.

We should focus on what we all agree on: schools should be operated so that students graduate with the knowledge and skills needed to lead successful and happy lives and to fully participate in society. The basics. How to think, not what to think.

9. If Washington State proposed legislation that would provide health care to children in school and at age 13 parental notification and approval were not required for treatment, what would be your position and view?

Such legislation should be vigorously opposed. Health care is often a euphemism. What does "health care" encompass? Who makes the decision of when a child needs health care? Who will give informed consent for a 13 year old? Is there a basis to reject the common sense legal theory that minors cannot consent? How are parents to care for their kids if they are excluded from such process? [Doesn't seem "inclusive" does it?] Another usurpation of the civil rights and moral authority of parents. Inappropriate.

10. What is your view on the role of CTE (Career Training Education)? Is it sufficient, under or over utilized?

I am not familiar with CTE and have no opinion.

11. Any other comments or thoughts you want to share with voters.

Taxpayers pay a lot of money to support schools and expect kids to receive a good education. Kids should not be cheated out of the education they deserve and we all want them to have.

The Hockinson School Board should be more involved in reviewing the curriculum. Lesson plans and materials should be available to the public.

Public schools should be neutral on issues where there is no consensus.

With the increasing number of state mandates, many of which have little to do with student attainment of basic academic skills, I want to be part of School Board that prioritizes the teaching of basic skills.

I think that the obsession with race is an unwelcome distraction from the school's core function and core competence.

I reject the implied presumption by the State educational establishment that the Hockinson School District is systematically racist and that my neighbors, past and present school board members, superintendents, teachers, staff or students are racists, conscious or unconscious. Any educational program based on a false premise is contrary to the basic purpose of education and should be viewed skeptically and ultimately rejected.

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