

Q1: What is your position on Critical Race Theory being required training for teachers and potentially being taught in schools?

In short, Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a theory that was derived from Marxism. Instead of conflict between classes, it takes the Marxist concept and replaces class with race. CRT assumes that every Caucasian is born an inherently racist white supremacist, oppressing and exploiting people of color. Critical race theory seeks to turn us against each other, by racially dividing us. This philosophy has no place in our school. There is nothing inherent in anyone's character because of the color of their skin. Teaching children they will never be able to achieve their full potential or that they will always be racist is neither beneficial nor accurate. Many, myself included, would call it abusive and racist.

Q2: What is your position/views on Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) being mandated by the Legislature and the State Superintendent of Schools?

Parents should be fully involved in the selection of curriculum being taught in the schools, and if they choose to opt-out, the process should be simple and reliable. Much of the CSE curriculum currently endorsed by the OSPI is offensive to many parents for many reasons including the graphic nature of the instruction, encouraging the bypass of parental rights, curriculum that is not scientifically accurate or in the best interests of the child, and because the curriculum is disrespectful of their religious beliefs. Our families need to trust the school district to teach their children without political agenda, and they also should feel confident that the values they teach in their home are not being undermined at school.

Q3: 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?

There is much we still don't scientifically know about the COVID-19 vaccines, as they are still in the experimental stages. Currently there are concerns that the vaccine might have negative side effects. Requiring a vaccination, especially an experimental vaccine, for anyone diminishes personal freedom. Forcing anyone into a medical procedure when they have concerns, however accurate or appropriate, is a form of bullying. Children are especially resilient to COVID-19, so requiring a vaccine with potentially serious side effects for a population that has almost no risk is incongruous with placing the well-being of children as the top priority.

Q4: What is your position on the continued requirement for masks by students while in school?

Mask-wearing can be especially challenging for students with disabilities, including sensory processing disorder. Covering children's faces impedes verbal and nonverbal communication and, by extension, language development, and social skills; among the very things we send children to school to learn. Asymptomatic spread of COVID-19 is not common, and any adult who wants the vaccine can get it, so why are we asking healthy children to wear

masks? Children have already sacrificed enough to keep adults safe. Anyone should feel free to continue to wear a mask if they like, but it should not be required.

Q5: What is your position/view on “equity, equality and inclusion” in public schools?

I value America's rich blend of different cultures, religions, and ethnicities. No person should be taught or made to feel like they are less valuable or less important than any other person. Every person should be given the same opportunities and choices, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or religion. School district employees and students should be able to respectfully share their thoughts and opinions without fear of punishment, discrimination, or retribution. Equity is important for all employees and students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations should be made for those struggling with disability. No one should ever be taught that there is anything inherently wrong with them.

I oppose all tenets of Critical Race Theory. Ideological indoctrination has no place in school. Schools should teach critical thinking and reasoning. Different viewpoints can be explored with older students in fair, thoughtful, and sensitive discussion. Parents should be fully included in what is being taught in the classroom. No one should be taught any aspect of their character or potential, is based on the color of their skin. Dr. Martin Luther King said it best when he said "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." I share his dream and look forward to a day when our character is our most important characteristic.

Q6: What is your position/views on Common Core?

Common Core State Standards are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for the knowledge and skills students need in English language arts and mathematics at each grade level so they can be prepared to succeed in college, career, and life. The standards of Common Core along with music, art, and in-person co-curricular activities makes for a well-rounded student. Washington state currently requires instruction and testing to Common Core standards. If voters decide that Common Core as implemented is not improving the educational experience of our students, we should consider suggestions for improvement.

Q7: What is your position/views on Social Emotional Learning?

Everyone wants emotionally, socially, mentally healthy children. But the role of the school is secondary to the role of the family in achieving that goal. School resources should primarily be to direct families to professionals in mental health, or basic instruction in emotional awareness and empathy. School districts should be careful to incorporate any religious practices, such as lead meditation or chanting. Parents should be aware of any curriculum being taught to their children about how to handle emotions or stress.

Q8: What are the top 3 challenges you would address in your first elected year and why?

School Board Leadership should listen to parents and students

Despite the best efforts of teachers and administrators, online education cannot replace in-person learning. Last fall the School Board opted to keep schools closed even when scientific research proved schools could open safely and educational, emotional, and mental harm was being befalling our students due to school closure. It became apparent that the needs of our community were not the first priority of the School Board. Our district has many talented and hardworking teachers and staff. We could do better for our students and should have allowed those who wanted to return to school sooner that option. Instead, we lost many students as they found options that better met their needs. Decisions made by the School Board should have the best interests of the students first, as advocated by the parents. They should not be enforcing a political ideology or organization.

Personal and Family choice

Masks have become the next issue. Is the School Board going to listen to the concerns and needs of the students and families, or are they going to enforce everyone to follow a controversial rule that may or may not be beneficial? Vaccinations, political thought, and sex education are other examples of how diversity of opinion is no longer being tolerated. Parents are children's best advocate, and School Board Directors should be willing to listen to parents and allow parents' input and control over their children's education. Our district's strength is the many various and diverse programs offered. Parents and students love the options, because all families and children are unique and have a unique set of needs and wants. The School Board should be able and willing to support all the families of the district.

Fiscal transparency

Management of budgets, bonds, and levies to assure our students can make up for lost time in our new or upgraded schools around the district. I pledge oversight and review of capital projects, particularly adequate controls to ensure compliance with state procurement laws on public works projects and competitive bidding for contractors. Furthermore, I will ensure appropriate oversight and compliance of the Federal Coronavirus Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund), to ensure allowable expenditures.

Q9: 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?

I would not support the proposed legislation to provide medical treatment, including vaccinations. Medical procedures are a very personal family decision which should involve parental consent, and it may be possible a child would feel pressured towards a certain choice by having procedures available in the school. Parents should trust the school district will respect their family's values, and this would only further erode a weak relationship.

Q10: What is your view on the role of CTE (Career Training Education)? Is it sufficient, under or over utilized?

Currently the VSD agreement with Cascadia Tech and Running Start at Clark College, has provided many diverse and beneficial opportunities for our students. I fully support these programs and would encourage expanding them if possible. I would love to see more awareness of these programs, and possibly incorporate some of the activities in each of the schools. It is unfortunate the pandemic has impacted these programs, and I hope they are quickly restored to pre-pandemic availability.

Any other comments or thoughts you want to share with voters?

Many of the issue's parents are concerned with today, can be summarized with concern about parental rights. Many philosophies currently taught to our children in the school district are counter to the values of the parents, and more and more parents are not being included, or worse, purposefully bypassed. Parents are most often the best advocate for a child. Whether the issue is masks, vaccines, CSE, CRT or whatever issue the future holds, the parents should feel like the school board is representing them.