

## School Board Candidate Questions for Heber Valley Life Magazine Fall Issue

### **Tell about yourself, background, education and teaching experiences, and career path.**

I am a former Wasatch High School English teacher, Timpanogos Intermediate School assistant principal and current Liahona Preparatory Academy principal. I earned a Bachelor of Science in English Teaching from Utah State University and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah. I am the mother of four wonderful children, and I love volunteering in their classrooms. I am active in the Wasatch Parent Network and serve on the Daniel Canyon Elementary School Community Council. I also served on the Wasatch County School District's Safe Schools Committee and Future Schools Committee. I am running for school board because I am passionate about high quality, comprehensive education and academic achievement. I want to ensure Wasatch County School District has the policies and resources in place to provide the best educational experience for all children in a fiscally responsible and transparent way.

### **What is the most important issue facing Wasatch County School District and what can you do as a board member about it?**

Two important issues facing Wasatch County School District are growth and attracting and retaining high quality educators. First, to address growth, I will have the courage and creativity to provide safe, appropriate, up-to-date, educationally conducive spaces for students to learn in. I will use data and open communication to evaluate needs, build community consensus, and make decisions that are best for students, educators, and the community. I would like to implement policies, so the long-term plan to accommodate growth is transparent and expected. Collaboration with community leaders is also important. Second, for attracting and retaining high quality educators, I will be a proponent for fair compensation and benefits to ensure we can hire and keep top-notch employees. This means I will support and vote for a budget that allocates the majority of its money to salaries and benefits. Continuing to fully fund benefits and staying competitive in the salary market is a priority for me because high quality teachers directly impact student achievement.

### **What is one of your strengths when working with a group?**

I am an excellent communicator. I have learned the value of listening to all perspectives to ensure I am fully informed. I listen with respect, value the contributions of others, and have empathy. I ask questions for clarity and accountability. I have the courage to speak up, contribute, and engage in critical conversations. With honest, clear, responsive, and respectful dialogue, I have found groups function more effectively and efficiently.

### **What is the purpose of a school board in a community?**

"A local school board shall make and enforce policies necessary for the control and management of the district schools" (Utah Code Section 53G-4-402). U.S. News & World Report (2023) further explains, "school boards have three major responsibilities: developing the annual budget to run the school system; setting school policies; and hiring and evaluating the superintendent." It is also the role of the board to ask questions, assess progress, listen to all sides, represent the community, and do what is best for students.