

## NASB State Board Candidate Questionnaire 2024



Dan Lonowski – LD 33

1. **Local Control** - With so many decisions from the legislature impacting local boards, NASB is interested in your view of local control. Regarding education, what decisions do you feel are best made at the school board level vs. the State level?

Control is best at the local level. Local school boards and superintendents know what is best for their schools.

2. **School Funding** - Every year the legislature makes decisions about the way schools are funded, making predictability of funding a challenge. What changes and/or adjustments, if any, do you think the Legislature should address?

Our state funding cannot continue to rise at the current pace. I believe unfunded mandates must be curtailed as the federal level. I also think we can do more with less at the administrative level - especially in large school systems. Bottom Line: Our priority is to educate students.

3. **Role of Education in the State** - What role do you think PK-12 Education plays in the future success of the State and your community?

We must prepare students for the future. We have to ensure some are prepared for four-year college and two-year college. We must also ensure that some are prepared for military service while ensuring others are ready to join the workforce. All should be encouraged to be life-long learners.

4. **Educational Workforce** - Educational workforce continues to be a challenge across the State from teachers to bus drivers. What would be your plan to address this challenge?

We need to accept other teachers from other states to teach here upon immediate arrival. If a teacher has proven herself or himself in another state, we could place the teacher on probation but not require extra educational courses. We also need to improve the base pay on the front end. I have a specific plan with steps/levels that will entice young people into the profession. With bus drivers, I think we need to be more proactive with recruiting drivers in the 50+ age range. Retirees are happy to be involved: a part-time job works.

5. **Mandates** - School districts continue to be challenged by the increasing unfunded mandates put upon them by the State and Federal government. What is your response to mandates and the State's role in them?

As a retired Spanish teacher after 35 years, I can honestly say the federal government has never aided my ability to teach. I think states should be in control of their respective states. Unfunded mandates only burden local districts. We must trust our local school boards and superintendents to do their jobs.

#### **Final Thoughts**

Both public and private education are important to this state. As property taxes continue to rise, we need to ensure we operate efficiently and turn out the best students possible.

#### **How can voters contact you?**

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