

## **DCP Candidate Questionnaire – Chris Schor**

**Q: In an era of more limited resources, do you support a bond and mill levy initiative? If so, how will you build support from taxpayers for public school spending?**

A: After listening to and reviewing the finding of the district's appointed volunteer Long Range Planning Committee, I support the need for a bond to address the substantial capital needs of our buildings and a mill levy override to pay our teachers competitive wages. There simply are not enough ways to cut the current budget to cover these 2 important needs.

There will need to be an immediate plan put into place to work through the district communications department as an outreach to the entire community. This will be a large undertaking that will happen over at least a 10 month period of time. As a board member I would like to meet with as many organizations in our community as possible in order to help them understand our critical needs.

**Q: What do you see as opportunities and challenges in this district? If elected, what will be your priorities?**

A: I will prioritize academic student needs and achievement, restoring trust and rapport with the teaching staff in our schools and prioritizing budget expenditures to support the learning environment in our schools.

**Q: What are your thoughts on the current budget for DCSD? How will you ensure that our students get the best education for the tax dollars spent?**

A: I am very concerned about the cuts to middle and high schools in the current budget. Giving top central administrators bonuses while simultaneously cutting schools and reducing pay increases for teachers sends a negative message to our community about our priorities as a district. Moving forward, I will prioritize funding to improve student academic achievement, take care of our highest capital needs that could close a building and provide competitive pay for our teachers.

**Q: What ideas do you have to attract and retain quality teachers in spite of state and district funding challenges?**

A: The teachers are the key to successful students and academic achievement. If teachers are supported and have on-going training they can do the work they are hired to do to support our children. If the teacher feels some trust and autonomy to create the cultures and the environments and lessons they need to create in their classrooms for students to be successful, the students will be successful. I would like to see the development of a short term and long range plan to recruit and retain principals and teachers.

**Q: How do you define choice as it relates to public education? How would you like to see educational choice implemented in Douglas County under your leadership?**

A: Douglas County School District has done an excellent job of offering well-rounded options for students through neighborhood, charter, magnet, alternative, online, and open enrollment school choices for our students. As a board member of a public school district, I would work with my fellow board members to ensure that all public choices going forward are high quality choices. As mentioned - I would like to see high quality choices continue under my leadership. While working at Castle Rock Elementary our team of parents, teachers, and community members, as well as the children, transformed our school into a school of science and inquiry. It was an amazing opportunity to work together through the community-driven process.

**Q: Do you support the use of public tax dollars for private schools via vouchers and/or education savings accounts?**

A: I support public school choice. Diverting public dollars to pay for private schools creates inequity and reduces public school resources. Therefore I do not support public tax dollars going to vouchers or educational savings accounts.

**Q: As a school board member, how will you work to ensure that parents, students, and community members have a voice, and that board practices are transparent and accountable to taxpayers?**

A: The board relies on several committees to gather input from parents, students and community members, along with offering the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting. However, in recent years, those avenues of input have often felt ignored and devalued. As a board member, it will be my priority to listen and respect the recommendations from our board committees and to provide more opportunities to allow the public to communicate with us as a board. I will work to improve transparency and accountability by providing the public an ample amount of time to participate in board decisions and making sure the Board has all of the information we need, including the financial and academic impact to student learning, before proceeding with a final decision.