

Thank you for the thought provoking questions. I had considered most of these prior to running for school board and you have given me more food for thought

Yes, the primary job of an educator is to prepare students for the real world, make America competitive in the global arena and to encourage solid citizens.

Phonics has it's issues and is worth looking at.

I believe that breaking the law is wrong. If the law is wrong then legislators need to change that law and respect the voice of the people. Our country was founded on moral principles that have worked for over two centuries, I believe in our constitution and the rights it gives us. Drugs and alcohol are very detrimental to young people as their brains are not fully developed, it is illegal for them to use them and this is what should be taught. I believe this includes tobacco. There was a program presented to elementary school children in Westmoreland County through Latrobe Area Hospital {before Excelsa} called Tar Wars, anti-tobacco, that I taught in my role as community educator. I believe strongly in giving our youth the best chance at success and substances definitely do not have a place here.

Tolerance for others should be taught as basic civics. I do not believe that certain agendas should be "pushed" on our youth, but factual information should be given if the student{s} show interest. It should be factual only and parents are the ones who make medical decisions for minor children. I understand that not all children have loving parents or stable home environments. Grandparents raising grandchildren, parents who have issues with drugs and alcohol and social media influences are just some of the challenges they face today. The school should be a safe place with resources to help these students navigate the world, but it does not mean that the parents' rights are usurped.

I am a patriot and I believe in America. Political bias has no place in that classroom as an agenda taught by a teacher with partisan leaning. I do advocate for healthy debate and expression of opinion. I do not believe in quashing free speech if it is appropriate for the classroom and is age appropriate. Local politics are the most important. California and Pennsylvania are two very different places.

I am very worried about mental health issues in the schools and the rise in violence gives me great cause for concern. My son is in law enforcement in SA Texas. He shared with me a program they developed that has a team approach to preventing these tragic events. It involves law enforcement, FBI input, State Police, teachers and mental health psychologist. The FBI has been compiling profiles on shooters for about fifty years and they know what to look for in at risk students. Teachers know the student the best as they spend the most time with them, they need the training, resources and support to prevent an event and obtain help for a child at risk.

Computer data base was something I was not aware of and will look into more. Any compilation of health information should have the same privacy laws as medical providers are subject to.