

School Board Candidate Questionnaire 2023

Please return by May 6, 2023 via email info@afaofpa.org, fax to 814-437-5432 or mail to AFA of PA, P.O. Box 1048, Franklin, PA 16323

Name: Robert M Pallone School District: New Kensington - Arnold

Are you an incumbent? Yes ___ No X Date: 4/27/23 Signature: [Signature]

ACADEMICS

Yes No

1. Do you believe schools should give primary emphasis to teaching basic skills (e.g. reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic) rather than social or psychological matters?

Yes No

2. Do you support the use of intensive, systematic phonics to teach first-grade children how to read?

Yes No

3. Do you support the goal that children should be able to read by the end of the first grade?

Yes No

4. Do you support the teaching of abstinence as the norm for unmarried teenagers and as the only truly effective way to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases?

Yes No

5. Do you believe the topics of homosexuality, transgenderism and other sexual orientations should be excluded from the classroom?

Yes No

6. Do you support teaching that the use of illegal drugs and the unlawful use of alcohol are "wrong"?

Yes No

7. Do you reject classroom instruction that downgrades American sovereignty, limited constitutional government, or private enterprise?

POLICY

Yes No

8. Do you support local control of education, with accountability through the local school board, rather than federal control exercised through federal and state bureaucracies and business partnerships?

Yes No

9. Do you reject federal control of curriculum?

Yes No

10. Do you oppose the establishment of school-based health clinics, which may perform examinations, provide immunizations and medications, and dispense birth control devices or information and abortion referrals, without parental consent or knowledge? Don't Agree

Yes No

11. Do you oppose the collection and maintenance of data on student health, performance, attitudes, behavior, and family, as well as academics, in computerized databases?

Yes No

12. Do you support the passage of a policy which would allow students to use facilities (i.e. bathrooms, locker rooms and showers) or play on sports teams based upon their "gender identity" and not their birth sex?

Yes No

13. Do you support the passage of a policy which would restrict the presence of sexually explicit books or those promoting homosexuality or transgenderism in school libraries

PARENTS' RIGHTS

Yes No

14. Do you believe in the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children?

Yes No

15. Do you support a school board policy allowing parents the right to inspect and review instructional materials and methods?

Yes No

16. Do you support a school board policy forbidding psychological evaluations, testing, treatment, or physical examinations of students without prior written parental consent?

Yes No

17. Do you believe parental consent should be required prior to giving information and care to students regarding sexuality and reproductive health?

Yes No

18. Do you oppose requiring students to answer nosy questionnaires about sex, drugs, suicide, and family behavior without prior written parental consent?

Yes No

19. Do you support the right of parents to homeschool their children?

Yes No

20. Do you believe parents have the right to express their concerns during a public school board meeting?

Yes No

IF DONE PROFESSIONALLY !!

To whom it may concern:

I did answer this questionnaire, but your idea of a Yes or No answer for some is ridiculous and what I perceive to be feeding an "agenda" that is an authoritarian approach to management and government – an approach that I am philosophically and professionally opposed to.

To be clear – **Questions 1 through 4** are pretty straightforward and an easy Yes or NO – I am a HARD YES on all 4.

Question 5: If you are insinuating that books that have characters with Homosexual tendencies, transgenderism, etc. should be Banned from our schools – I am a HARD NO – Literature, history and even businesses teachings have MULTIPLE influences and realities that I may disagree with, but I don't believe they should be excluded or "outlawed". Should a teacher take the opportunity in a situation to impart his/her beliefs and try to sway or lead the students in a given Direction? I am a HARD NO and say it should not happen and cannot happen in Public Education. Book Banning, "Don't say gay laws" etc. are RADICAL approaches and there is no place for that in a democracy or a free society. If a parent wants to control the literature and topics, they should take their kids out of public education and pay for a format they can control. This question is NOT a simple Yes or NO.

Questions 6 through 9 – easy answers for Yes and/or NO. You see my position.

Question 10 - it is an easy question until you insert the politically charged last line – "Without parental consent or knowledge" – I am 100% for school based health and clinics – In some cases, that is the ONLY CHANCE some of the kids will get for Medical, Dental, Psychological attention and/or pregnancy and birth control counseling – SOMEBODY has to help the underserved. Should it be done in all grades – absolutely NOT – but it would be reasonable to have something in place from the 9th through 12 grade levels when kids are reaching adulthood and HORMONES are flying. Let's not cater to the kids that have good parenting and guidance - -let's help the many that do NOT. The last line says it all – "Without consent or knowledge" – That for me is a HARD NO – the parents should know the kid was asking for help and the parent should have the option to participate and/or be part of the discussion. They should not be in the dark – that makes the question way to loaded and a "Political" agenda versus Yes or NO.

Questions 11 through 13 – Easy yes or no – you see my position.

Question 14 – Not a yes or no question in ANY WAY!! It is purely a political pawn that is emotionally charged for political gain and has nothing to do with the reality of managing a school district or the public education on students. Should the parents be allowed to express themselves – ABSOLUTELY – should they be allowed to pick and choose – ABSOLUTELY NOT – Not in Public education – if they want to use their OWN MONEY and their own means to pay for an education, SURE, knock yourself out. But in Public Education, you are electing representative (representative government) to make good decisions that are reflective of the MAJORITY – NOT ONE. The circus antics that have gone on over the past few years at school boards are ridiculous. A few trying to tell the masses how it is going to be done? That is not America or American!! Majority rule – if you don't like the decision, elect a different representative to express your view. In many cases, the people being the loudest and making the most

Noise in this space are NOT QUALIFIED and NOT capable of making the decisions they want to control. They either have "tainted" information, a lack of information or just a political agenda to support their approach and stance. I do not operate that way and I will not support that approach to management and governing. This topic could be a thesis, but my brief insight on this page should give you a better understanding of my thoughts – NOT A SIMPLE YES OR NO.

Questions 15 - yes they can inspect and ask questions, but NO they can't make a blanket change to what they see without public debate and/or majority agreement.

Question 16 – On the surface it is an easy NO – I believe there should be parental consent and involvement – however, there will be cases where there is a Habitual violator and concerning student that the school should have the RIGHT and the power to REFER a troubled child and student for evaluations without the Parent being involved – if the parent continues to say NO, but the kid CLEARLY needs help, why would we let an unqualified parent that may even be "protecting" their child or simply in denial to BLOCK needed help. NOT such an easy YES OR NO – there has to be some leeway and some protections in place that protect ALL THE KIDS – NOT JUST ONE KID. Again, I could write a thesis here – and I have personal experience with it in the IEP process with an Autistic Child.....I can expound if needed.

Questions 17 and 18 – fairly straightforward but there has to be caveats? In many cases, parents are in denial, they blame others for their own problems – should we walk away in that case because the parent refuses the help that is VERY PLAIN To see and very much in need? Loaded question to gain a political stance to exploit.

Question 19 – I DO NOT BELIEVE in homeschooling unless it is under the guidance and management of qualified professionals. Over the years, I have seen this used for kids that are delinquent, tardy, etc. etc. It has become a "WAY OUT" in many cases – also, some of the people I have seen as "Home schoolers" are NOT qualified to teach anyone, but they want to be the sole teacher of their child – this is VERY DANGEROUS territory that is NOT very well governed or with adequate oversight and/or rules and requirements. GUIDELINES, OVER SIGHT and the same regulations and requirements of PUBLICLY educated children should apply to HOME SCHOOLING and Cyber Schooling. Right now, Cyber schooling is a money grab for the RICH that have bought political coverage and you see the results – LOTS of money being made by a few and the education aspect is not a consideration at all.

Question 20 – OF COURSE I believe that people should express concerns – IF THEY DO IT PROFESSIONALLY – if it is a circus – I say shut it down and close the input – people either want to do it professionally and try to find middle road solution with civilized approach or there should be ZERO additional discussion – that simple.

As you can see, I have some concerns about your "questionnaire" – You are saying you want to "INFORM VOTERS" with the results, but I question if that is the true meaning of the exercise. In order to truly be "INFORMED" there has to be a lot of discussion and debate surrounding the "Loaded" questions on this report you are asking me to sign. I have clarified a bit on this note, but there is MUCH MUCH more to say and discuss to truly "INFORM" anyone. We live in a democracy, where the majority is

supposed to rule, and we are to be "REPRESENTATIVES" of those who elect us – ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO ELECT US! Not just the ones with the most money, not a representative of the population of voters that have been "GERRYMANDERED" into a district to service a political party or an agenda. The sooner we get back to a democracy of representation "FOR THE PEOPLE and BY THE PEOPLE", the sooner we will lose all the ridiculous emotions, hysteria and chaos in our current political environment. You missed on big question – It should be Number 21 – DO YOU BELIEVE IN and FULLY SUPPORT TERM LIMITS at all levels of government. Maybe we would have a lot less 40- and 50-year politicians that are 70, 80 and 90 in these offices. Mostly White men that have been bought and paid for by the special interests for the past 50 years or more!!!! BOTH PARTIES are GUILTY AS CHARGED!!!

Thanks for listening and I hope you publish all my thoughts when you all attempt to "INFORM " voters who I am and what I stand for – Probably won't happen unless it fits your agenda – LOL!!!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Pallone", written in a cursive style.

Robert M. Pallone