

New Hanover RLC Candidate Survey

-- County Board of Education --

Race, Diversity, and Inclusion:

1. Which of the following student policies do you support? (Check all that apply)

- Providing equal educational opportunities for every student, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability
- Ensuring that student body is comprised of a diverse group of students, based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability.
- Teaching children to understand their privilege if they do not belong to a minority or historically oppressed group of people.
- Teaching children to appreciate and equally respect each individual person, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability.
- Other, Explain no individual group should be shown preferential treatment

2. Do you support busing students to schools outside their residential neighborhoods to achieve the goals of diversity and inclusion? (Check one)

- Yes
- No
- Other, Explain families/parents should be able to choose the charter, private, or homeschool that best meets

3. Schools in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods often do not have equal facilities ^{their} to those schools in more affluent neighborhoods. Which of the following policies do you ^{needs} support? (Check all that apply)

- Temporarily allotting more funds to some schools for facilities upgrades, until all schools have equal facilities.
- Prohibiting individual schools from accepting private monetary and in-kind donations, so that these inequalities in facilities do not happen in the future.
- Nothing
- Once facilities equality is achieved, create a policy that no facilities upgrades will occur unless these upgrades target all of the schools in the district.
- Other, Explain Facilities need to be safe and meet the academic needs of the students who attend them. Individuals/businesses should be able to donate to schools without any appearance of impropriety.

4. The best teachers, aides, and other school staff often will shy away from working in schools that are not in affluent neighborhoods. This can lead to inequalities in the quality of education that minority students receive. Would you support a policy that required that educators and school staff be placed in different schools on a rotating basis? (Check one)

Yes

No

Other, Explain Consistency from year to year and positive relationships with teachers benefit students.

5. Which of the following employment policies do you support? (Check all that apply)

Creating more diversity within the district's workforce by giving preferential hiring consideration based on gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability.

Ensuring that no discrimination is occurring during the hiring process due to gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability.

Creating more diversity within the district's workforce by creating special programs that help those individuals belonging to historically marginalized groups become qualified for positions within the district.

Ensuring that equal compensation is paid to equally qualified employees, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or disability.

None

Other, Explain Hire the most qualified individual for the job. Compensation should be based on experience and merit.

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Guns and Security:

6. Which of the following gun policies do you support? (Check all that apply)

Guns should be completely banned from all school district property.

Members of law enforcement should be allowed to carry guns on school district property

Members of the public or employees with a CCW permit should be allowed to carry guns onto school district property.

Guns should be prohibited inside schools, but allowed on outside property

Simply having a gun in one's vehicle that is parked on school property should not be a crime.

Guns should be allowed for public gatherings on school property, but prohibited inside classrooms

- Any person who is legally entitled to possess a gun should have the right to carry a gun on school property.
 - Create a specialized training program for how to safely carry guns on school district property and allow individuals who have completed that training to carry guns.
 - If guns are banned from all or part of the school district's property, lawful gun owners should at least have the opportunity to check their gun in, and have it returned to them when they leave.
 - None
 - Other, Explain It's about being responsible. Not all citizens are responsible enough to do so. It is about mental health and
7. Do you agree that in order to increase security, teachers and other school staff should be bullying allowed to carry guns within our schools (Check one) issues not being addressed appropriately. (for students)
- Yes
 - Yes, but only for those who go through a specialized training program.
 - No
 - No, but guns should be allowed for members of law enforcement.
 - Other, Explain You have a right to defend yourself regardless of your location.

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Personal Liberty:

8. Which policies regarding school prayer do you support? (Check all that apply)
- Organized school prayer should be mandatory.
 - Organized school prayer should be allowed, so long as it refers only to a monotheistic God and doesn't espouse or disparage a specific religion.
 - Voluntary prayer, led by individual employees or students should be allowed.
 - All forms of prayer should be eliminated from all public-school activities.
 - Other, Explain All religious student-led groups should be allowed to gather on school grounds. Chaplains should be allowed on campus for student support.
9. If medical cannabis becomes legal within North Carolina, would you support its implementation within the school district (Check one)
- Yes
 - Yes, but it should be dispensed by the school nurse, like all other prescription medications are.
 - No
 - Other, Explain A school is not a medical provider.

10. The New Hanover County school district currently has an agreement with local law enforcement agencies that allows those agencies to question students without parental permission or notification. Do you support such a policy? (Check one)

- Yes
- Yes, but only if the student is not a suspect in a crime.
- No, parental permission or a warrant should be required in all instances.
- No, parental permission or a warrant should be required when the student is a suspect in a crime, and parental notification should be required in all instances.

Other, Explain In all instances other than eminent danger, parental notification and/or permission should be acquired.

11. With the stated goal of "promoting harmony" many school districts are implementing policies in regard to what students and employees can post on social media. Violating these policies can result in disciplinary action. What is your position? (Check all that apply)

- Anything short of criminally threatening others is free speech and should be allowed.
- The school district is within its rights to prohibit certain posts if they are made on school district property, but what happens outside of school district property is not their concern.
- Hateful posts targeted towards another individual should be prohibited, but those that merely express an unpopular viewpoint should be allowed.
- Students shouldn't be allowed to carry mobile phones on school property, and employees should be banned from using social media on school property.
- These policies do promote harmony and need to be maintained, or perhaps strengthened.

Other, Explain Freedom of speech outside of the workplace should not be limited. Simply because they are students or employees should not limit them. The district does not have the right to limit free speech outside of school.

12. In response to COVID-19, many school districts have implemented mask mandates for employees, students, and visiting member of the public, while on school property. Other school districts have gone as far as implementing vaccine requirements. What is your position on these mandates? (Check all that apply)

- Mask mandates work and help stop the transmission of COVID-19. We must keep the mandate in place for the health of all students, faculty, and members of the public.
- The risk of children getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19 is minimal for most students, and therefore masks should be optional.
- Standard masks don't work, but we should mandate the use of N95 masks when on school property.

- Regardless of the risk, transmission rates, or any other factors, it is the right of the parents to decide whether they (or their children) should wear masks.
- Mask mandates in the schools were fine before we had a childhood vaccine, but now that we do then they should be optional.
- Masks impair learning
- Vaccines should be required for all employees of the school district unless there is a verifiable health or religious exemption.
- Vaccines should be required for all students in the school district unless there is a verifiable health or religious exemption.
- Vaccines should not be required for any students.
- Vaccines should not be required for any employees.
- Proof of vaccination by a member of the public should be required to enter school district property.
- Members of the public should have the freedom to enter school district property, regardless of vaccination status.

Other, Explain Medical decisions are not the role of a government entity. Vaccine and mask mandates are unconstitutional. The school system does not have the authority to enact public health policy.

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Finances:

13. Certain state, federal, and private funding sources require that the school district receiving those funds implement certain policies. How likely are you to compromise what you believe are sound and principled educational principles in order to receive those funds? (Check one)

- Very likely
- Likely
- Neutral, I would weigh the educational benefit of the funds against the implication of the bad policy that would need to be adopted.
- Unlikely, Unless the implications of the bad policy are fairly minimal and the sum of the funding creates a large educational benefit, then I would reject those funds.

Very Unlikely There is always another way. There should be no expectation to leverage school policy in return. No actual or appearance of impropriety should be acceptable when

14. What are your beliefs about the salaries and pay of school employees? (Rate each) accepting funding.

- *Salaries for teachers – TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
- Pay for teacher aides – TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW

* The workload for teachers isn't appropriate for the salary.

- Salaries for administrators - TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
 - Pay for support personnel - TOO HIGH || JUST RIGHT || TOO LOW
15. To reduce the school district's budget, what policies would you enact? (Check all that apply)

- Eliminate or reduce athletic programs
- Eliminate or reduce music and fine arts programs
- Impose larger fees for students participating in after-school activities
- Eliminate unnecessary tech expenditures, and get back to the basics
- Reduce staffing, and implement self-serve tech solutions
- Other, Explain Remove EDI and all equity-related groups/positions. Everything is on the table. An audit should be put together.

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

Educational Quality:

16. Poor conduct by some students can negatively affect the safety, well-being, and the quality of education of other students. What conduct policies you espouse? (Check all that apply)

- Zero tolerance policies for the most egregious student conduct.
- Hiring more school counselors to help students identify and cure the root causes of their misconduct.
- End out-of-school suspensions for most misconduct as that only reinforces bad behavior.
- Institute more corporal punishment
- Offer incentives to students who inform school administrators of bad conduct by other students.
- More law enforcement in our schools.
- Offer tangible incentives to students for good behavior.
- Require security screening stations and conduct more surveillance on the student body.
- Create school dress codes
- Eliminate cell phones from our schools and monitor social media posts by students when they are not at school.
- Other, Explain Accountability with families and students; grants for parents to select their own private counselors, as many within the schools have bias toward certain students; eliminate cell phones from schools.

17. What is your opinion of the Common Core Mathematics and English Language standards, and the NC Essential Standards that have been adopted by the NC Department of Public Instruction? (Check one)

- They are horrible, as they incentivize teachers to "teach to a test."
- They are much needed standards, and valuable tools for educators.
- They are mostly good but need some revision.
- Students should be assessed on a more individualized basis.
- Other, Explain Students need to get back to basics. Bring back the education standards and methods of previous generations.

18. What policies would you implement in order to aide under-performing students? (Check all that apply)

- Grade on a bell curve
- Set higher academic standards
- Start holding some of these kids back a year
- Create more individualized tests
- Offer alternative academic programs that cater to the strengths and desired vocations of the individual student.
- Set a minimum grade of 50%, regardless of whether the work was done or how good it was.
- Hire more teaching assistants to help students that are falling behind.
- Hire more guidance counselors to determine at-home problems that are contributing to the student's lack of academic success.
- Reduce class sizes.
- Other, Explain Create grants to hire additional tutors and/or counselors as needed.

19. What is your opinion on charter schools and school choice? (Check all that apply)

- Charter schools take needed funds away from public school districts
- The current number of charter schools is sufficient
- Charter schools are great, and we need to fund more students who wish to attend these schools.
- We should eliminate public schools and go to a completely private school system where the public funding always follows the student.
- If parents want their kids to attend non-public schools, then they should pay for it on their own.
- Charter schools need to be held to more stringent standards.
- Other, Explain Money follows the student. After graduation, students are free to choose the college/university/trade school they attend. The same options should be true for K-12 students.

End of Section – If you wish to explain your positions for this section of the questionnaire in more detail, please attach additional page(s).

20. Please list your top 3 priorities that you will work on, if elected. Attach additional page(s) if necessary.

1. Parent Rights
2. School Safety
3. Re-establishing trust in school system
* Please see attached

END OF SURVEY

Parent Rights

We have observed the sovereignty of parents being violated on many fronts. While the medical decisions relating to masking and vaccinations are the focus at this time, these will likely fade over time. What should be most concerning to parents is the infringement of these rights that have been written into school policy. The policies that remove the choice of parents or force them to ask the school for permission need to be removed or changed. Parents voices need to be heard.

Safety in Schools

Violence and bullying is on the rise in our schools. To address this, I would make the following recommendations: increase the number of School Resource Officers (SROs) and support volunteers; and hold students accountable for their actions. Multiple and consistent SROs would help to repair the damaged relationships between students and law enforcement. Additionally, community support volunteers such as firefighters or retired military members, could provide students with role models with whom they could confide. Secondly, we need to hold students accountable. Parental involvement in a conference after a suspension has occurred has shown that students are less likely to be repeat offenders.

Re-establishing trust in the school system

Over 1300 students have left our school system this year. This is due to the growing distrust of school administration. Over the course of the past two years, the district has been deceptive in their funding of various programs and the creation of central office positions for selected individuals. This was done by the current superintendent without board approval. Policies have been created and curriculum has been selected without regard to parent wishes. This administration, including both the sitting board members and the superintendent, needs to be held accountable. The current superintendent needs to be removed and replaced. Deception within the policies and practices needs to be revealed.