



School Board Questions

1. What are the major issues you see facing Kyrene schools? What would you do to address these?

Attracting and retaining teachers and support staff is, unfortunately, a common issue. There are a few things governing boards can do to combat this. First, is continuing to prioritize directing additional funds for educators and support staff when possible. The second is to keep a connection with administration and staff about their needs for professional development. Finally, creating a working environment where educators feel valued and supported as professionals. Our employees are our greatest asset, without them we will see inflated class sizes and diminished student outcomes.

Declining enrollment is also a major issue facing Kyrene, and many of our peer school districts. It is forecast that Kyrene will continue to see declining enrollment due to aging demographics. A way to address this issue is working to evaluate the needs of the community and creating programs that meet those needs will continue to bolster enrollment within Kyrene. Examples of this include the expansion of Kyrene Traditional Academy, dual language academies, and preschool choices.

2. Would you support a board decision you did not vote in favor of? Why or why not?

Yes, while board members have individual votes, we work as a body. If a policy had a detrimental impact on students, staff, or our community, I would advocate for aspects of the policy to be discussed in a study session prior to adoption, to provide the greatest amount of transparency. During the adoption process, it's appropriate for a board member to civilly state their reason for a dissenting vote, but after a measure passes that was the will of the board. After adoption I would request that we revisit the outcomes of the policy to see if it was achieving the desired outcome as an item for future consideration.

3. What programming and policies do you hope to bring to the district?

In May, the board adopted policy ACB, outlining Kyrene's commitment to students and staff learning, and working, in an environment that is fair and equitable. I would work with other members of the board, along with district administration, to unpack that policy and what it looks like in action. Our student data shows that there are gaps that exist in student outcomes. Using policy ACB as a framework to examine current practices and adjust, when necessary, to ensure our students and staff have the resources needed to promote growth and decrease our achievement and opportunity gaps is critical to Kyrene's continued success.