

## 2023 School Board Questionnaire

### **1. What is your website and/or another way for delegates to reach you?**

- [team@carlofranco.org](mailto:team@carlofranco.org) | [carlofranco.org](http://carlofranco.org) |

### **2. What are your top priorities for the school district?**

- Full Investment in Restorative Justice Programs within SPPS
- Priorities for stronger, more transparent and representative leadership from the district to improve staff support and work conditions
- Collaborative Re-Design of School-wide and District-wide expectations
- Professional Development Opportunities for all staff that interact with our students
- Budget
  - i. Community Input on Budget Goals and Priorities
  - ii. Minimize cuts to the frontlines, including our classrooms and school buildings
  - iii. School-based and need-based budgeting
- Recruitment and retention of Saint Paul Students and Staff for our SPPS through Strengthened Community Schools
  - i. Localized decision-making power for school administrators, in partnership with representative community
  - ii. Student Leadership and Community Voices integrated within the design and leadership of SPPS and school communities
  - iii. Understand why families are leaving our district and allow school communities the flexibility to meet their needs

### **3. How would you help improve student achievement?**

- Focus on creative strategies to develop safe environments where all of our students can have a conducive learning environment.
- Reinvest in extracurricular activities that spark student interest: arts, athletics, STEM, employment opportunities, internships, and experiential learning.
- Remove barriers to families being involved in their child's education journey.

### **4. What is your plan to close the achievement gap?**

- Work with non-profit partners, the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County, the State of Minnesota and other stakeholders to ensure we can properly and adequately invest in our people to ensure our families have their basic needs met: Housing, Food, Safety, and Employment.
- Invest in high quality, culturally responsive curriculum that reflects our community values.
- Invest in hiring and training more teachers of color.

- Implement intensive reading and writing interventions in elementary school to ensure that our earliest learners can read, and we continue to offer intensive services until goals are met.
- Smaller Class Sizes with more individualized supports.
- More support in the classroom and school buildings, prioritized over investments in Executive / Superintendent / Central Administration Level Staff.

**5. What is the best way to keep our kids safe in school?**

- Fully funded restorative justice programming.
- Community Building within and outside of the school community.
- Empowering Youth and Finding ways for them to have ownership in holding each other accountable to safe environments.

**6. Would you support distributing funds raised by parent-led groups across all schools to address the achievement gap and racial disparity?**

- We should create more opportunities for school communities to build networks and engage alumni in their school communities. This could be an opportunity to build networks of people who are invested in every neighborhood within Saint Paul with connection to our schools, that may be able to raise additional funds and support the school communities. This could support more community-based ownership in our schools as well as tangible resources that could be used on additional needs.
- I would like to see our schools fully-funded in every sense. If our schools were fully-funded by the State and Federal Government, we would not need to rely on small dollar fundraising to enhance the learning environments of our students.

**7. What is your stance on charter schools, and how do you believe they impact the public school system in terms of funding and resources?**

- I support a moratorium on opening any new charter schools in Saint Paul. Dollars that follow students outside of our traditional districts are dollars that are being stretched into schools that are typically also under-enrolled. This creates an ecosystem of public education that is chronically underfunded, with seats that remain open or seats that are piled on top of each other in classrooms because in order to meet the budget, we need to overfill classrooms in our traditional district.

**8. What are your thoughts on the Student Outcomes Focused Governance (SOFG) model? Do you support or oppose its adoption and implementation in our district?**

- I believe that the student outcomes focused governance model is restrictive in the way that it allows new challenges or concerns by the community to be addressed at a board level based on the specific focus of

the agenda. I believe the SOFG model where we identify very few goals to work on for a year will not allow us to tackle as many of the glaring challenges that our community expects us to address at the board meetings. I do believe the need for community engagement within the goals of the district needs to be strengthened, and I believe that the board should be involved in the direction of that and monitoring of that directive to the district to be implemented with fidelity. There has not been a thriving practice of bringing all stakeholders and community to the table around decision making or guiding our work. There is a significant need to ensure that models and questions around student outcomes are a focus in our board meetings, and measures to monitor the superintendent's performance. I would support some of the guidelines in the SOFG, but believe in the current state, it is too restrictive, and I would not support full adoption. I would however, support a model that accepts some of the tools as a method to help guide the work of the board.

**9. What are your thoughts on sustainability initiatives in schools, such as solar installations on school buildings?**

- SPPS invests millions of dollars into infrastructure improvement annually. It is essential that we lean into additional energy sources that are more sustainable. We should be including in our project RFPs strong language around the needs to include sustainable and environmentally responsible energy sources. Solar on school buildings would be a good start to implementing more sustainable initiatives.