

## 2023 School Board Questionnaire

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

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<https://www.sumeyasaid4spps.org/>

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

My top priorities are school safety, implicating Curriculums and programs that lead to academic success and community engagement, building a strong and collaborative relationship with all stakeholders, and creating an inclusive and equitable school environment for all students.

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

I would help improve student achievement by supporting effective teaching. I would work to create Professional development opportunities for teachers, to ensure that they have the training and resources they need to be successful in their classrooms and schools. I would promote and encourage more parental involvement and engagement in schools and students' education. I will do this by having workshops for parents, providing resources to support parents, and having a system in place to ensure effective communication between schools and parents. I would provide effective resources to schools. This would include but not be limited to funding for materials, supplies, technology, and support services. I would also collaborate with the community. I will work with community organizations, businesses, and community leaders to Cultivate student achievement by providing opportunities such as mentoring programs, internship opportunities, and extracurricular activities.

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

My plans to close the achievement gap are to create early intervention and support programs such as quality early childhood education programs and intervention

programs for students who are struggling. I will promote teaching that is culturally responsive; this would increase classroom engagement and allow teachers to support students from diverse backgrounds better. Recognizing students' cultural identities and experiences will help teachers teach in a way that optimizes and promote academic achievement.

Another way I plan to close the achievement gap is by having equitable access to quality education resources, such as school supplies, learning materials, technology, quality facilities, and properly trained qualified educators.

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

There are a few ways we can keep our kids safe in schools, such as having comprehensive safety policies. Schools should have comprehensive safety policies that address all safety and security concerns, like emergency readiness, how to plan for and respond to crises, and protocols for preventing potential safety threats. Schools need to provide training for all staff, educators, and students on what to do in case of an emergency so they know how to keep themselves and others safe. Faculty and staff should also have training on ways to prevent safety issues and threats. Training on how schools can be proactive. Schools should also provide mental health support. Schools can provide resources within schools like trained counselors and mental health resources. Also, schools can collaborate with community resources and create partnerships with external resources like law enforcement agencies, mental health professionals, and other community resources. These are a few ways that we can best keep our kids safe in schools.

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

There are benefits to distributing funds raised by parent-led groups to address the achievement gap and racial disparity. Families see the needs of their schools, and they often want to get involved in order to ensure their students have resources and support to get quality education. This could be an opportunity to get families more involved in their schools. This would allow schools to receive more support and resources they need. This can ensure that more public schools have access to better resources. Funds raised by parent-led groups can also

give schools the opportunity to get better programs, improve their infrastructure and receive more support services.

On the other hand, distributing funds raised by parent-led groups may take away from schools' and communities' ability to make decisions on how resources are allocated, and funds may not be allocated to where they believe has a need for it or areas that should be prioritized. Families and the community may understand the needs of their schools better, and a blanket redistribution might not be very effective for the specific needs of each school.

Distributing funds raised by parent-led groups across all schools may be very beneficial if families and communities are able to play a key role in the decision of how resources and funds are allocated and if there is equity in distribution and the resources and funds all schools receive.

**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?**

There is an increasing number of charter schools within our city and state. We are seeing more and more charter schools every year. A lot of St. Paul families have been looking to charter schools as an alternative to public school education. Some charter schools are making a valuable contribution to their communities, but a significant number of these charter schools are not in the best interest of the students.

There are major concerns when it comes to charter schools, such as less oversight and accountability than public schools; this leads to issues with financial mismanagement and meeting academic standards. Charter schools sometimes do selective enrollment practices, which means they are able to exclude students they believe are a challenge, like students who have behavior issues, Special needs, or lower academic performance. Another major issue is that a lot of charter schools have a low number of qualified teachers, which leads to lower-quality education for the students. Overall, most charter schools do more harm to students' education and the community than good.

An increase in enrollment in charter schools results in a decrease in enrollment at public schools. This impacts public schools' funding and resources in a big way.

When students go to charter schools, funding follows them. The higher the number of students charter schools have, the more funding they receive. This means less funds available to public schools. This results in financial challenges for public schools, like cutting programs and reducing resources.

Public schools are facing inefficient utilization of resources. Public schools have certain costs that are fixed, such as building maintenance, infrastructure, and staff. Even with less funding due to fewer students, these costs still have to be covered, and that puts a financial strain on public schools and their budgets.

**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 am a strong advocate for student Outcomes Focused Governance simply because I believe that it is a model that focuses on and prioritizes the success and well-being of our students. I support its adoption and implementation in our district.

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

Sustainability initiatives like solar installations can help schools reduce their carbon footprint and actively encourage the use of sustainable energy sources while educating students on renewable energy and climate change.

Solar installations can help the district budget. Solar installation would decrease energy expenses which would lead to long-term savings for schools.

Sustainability initiatives like solar installation can increase community engagement by allowing for opportunities to partner with renewable energy companies, government officials, and community organizations.