



Springfield School Board Candidate Survey

Scott Crise

Public funds should be reserved for schools that are governed by a publicly accountable and elected board - How much do you agree with this statement?

Elected boards provide a democratic oversight system for schools that are funded by the public. It ensures that the community has a say in how educational resources are allocated. Elected boards must be held accountable for how they use taxpayer money. Board members should be engaged with the community to include them in the decision-making process.

Every school should be equipped with the resources to deliver quality education that prepares every child for the future, no matter their color, their background, or their zip code. - How much do you agree with this statement?

As a current Springfield Public Schools board member, we developed a vision that SPS equip each student to pursue their goals and highest potential as an engaged contributor to society. We must prepare all students to be college and/or career ready no matter their color, their back ground or their zip code.

School district employees and students should be safe, respected, appreciated, heard, and have the resources they need to succeed. - How much do you agree with this statement?

Safety and security has to be a top priority and the board must also ensure that teachers and students are in safe and secure environments. If re-elected, I will continue to listen to teachers and students and will be an advocate for both. I will encourage open communication. I believe my experience in operations management, construction management and budgeting will allow me to continue to support the mission, visions and Strategic Plan of the district to make sure they have the resources that are needed to succeed.

The right of workers to join unions to negotiate fair wages, benefits, and working conditions without employer interference should be protected. - How much do you agree with this statement?

I'm in favor of teachers and staff (e.g. bus drivers, cafeteria staff, etc.) joining unions. There are many factors that contribute to attracting and maintaining quality teachers and staff at SPS. First, the district needs to continue to increase salaries and benefits. It is my believe that teachers and staff must have great support from the district and board. Additionally, the district must provide a robust assortment of leadership and professional development opportunities. SPS must also improve in addressing student discipline issues in a consistent manner to ensure workers have safe working conditions.

All workers should earn a living wage of at least \$15 per hour. - How much do you agree with this statement

I believe that workers should earn a living wage of at least \$15 per hour, if not more. Fair compensation contributes to the dignity of work and I will work to ensure that the district recognizes that each worker is a valuable contributor to the success of the district.

Workers should have access to earned sick time and family leave to care for themselves and loved ones in times of crisis. - How much do you agree with this statement?

I believe that all workers should have access to earned sick time and family leave to care for themselves and loved ones. I will work with SPS administration to make sure that all workers have access to these benefits.

Every Springfield resident should have a safe, accessible, and truly affordable place to call home. - How much do you agree with this statement?

It is my believe that residents should have access to safe and secure housing because it is essential for an individual's dignity, well-being, and ability to participate fully in society. Stable housing enables individuals to focus on their work, education, and personal development, leading to increased economic productivity. The board can work with administration to ensure wages and benefits are such where SPS employees can afford a place to call home.

Springfield Public Schools should prioritize contracts with businesses who pay at or above prevailing wage rates and have a proven track record of respecting and protecting workers on the job. The district should prioritize contracts with businesses that employ local workers who have access to apprenticeship training. - How much do you agree with this statement?

I believe that SPS should prioritize contracts with businesses that employ local workers who have access to apprenticeship training. The contract will be more affordable because the pay rate for apprentices is lower and it will provide necessary training to allow the apprentice to learn and move up in their position.

School district leaders should champion policies that eliminate racial disparities/injustices in hiring and employment practices, educational opportunities, curriculum, and discipline, as well as in income, public health and safety. - How much do you agree with this statement?

SPS administration much be champions of all policies that eliminate racial disparities/injustices in hiring and employment practices, educational opportunities, curriculum, and discipline, as well as in income, public health and safety. It the duty of the board to pass these type of policies!

Is there anything else you would like for us to know?

I love Springfield and am proud to have raised my daughters in this community. I was always involved in their education, and I have a passion for public education. In 2021, my daughters had graduated from Springfield Public Schools and my job had recently changed, requiring much less travel than before, so I ran for the school board and was elected. Now, I want to see that job through. Nearly three years of experience on the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education better qualifies me to represent the diverse needs of SPS stakeholders. Since my election in April 2021, I have worked with a new superintendent and provided input to her initial entry plans. I was one of the Board liaisons to the Community Task Force for Facilities, and I helped update the five-year strategic plan. As an operations manager with experience in construction management, budgeting and long-term, strategic planning, I am uniquely qualified to continue tackling the challenges faced by Springfield Public Schools. Our children need an advocate who has been invested in our district and has the know-how to make firm decisions to plan the next steps to move SPS forward.