



Springfield School Board Candidate Survey

Danielle Kincaid (she/her/hers)

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?

As a board member of the Springfield Public Schools' Board of Education and an advocate for public schools, I do not support vouchers or charter school expansions in the private sector. Numerous studies show that private charter schools not only lack the necessary transparency or improvement in student achievement necessary to justify the use of public education funds, but also show that private charter schools hurt public schools within the same district. These alternative types of schooling are not held to the same standards as public schools. They have limited enrollment and can prefer admitting one student over another student – resulting in additional strains on underprivileged students and students with special needs.

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?

I will continue to advocate for additional resources in our public schools, especially those schools who serve underprivileged students. This advocacy starts locally with our community partners and extends to the state, and federal, level by building relationships with our lawmakers.

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?

Effective lines of communication between educators, administration, and the Board of Education that are continuous, open, and flow in both directions are truly vital. Educators should feel their voice is being heard by those making decisions on their behalf and that work is being done to address those concerns. Improving the lines of communication between those in the classroom, the administration, and the Board is an area of opportunity for the Board in upcoming years. I will focus on providing additional supports for those employees in our classrooms and schools to ensure a positive and safe environment. I will also seek to increase communication between educators and administration.

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?

In 2019, I voted to increase teacher pay by a 3% cost of living raise plus a step on the salary schedule. In 2022, I voted to increase teacher pay by 4 % (the largest percentage increase since 1991) plus a step on the salary schedule. I have, and will continue, to support higher wages for all SPS employees, though I recognize that salary is only part of the equation to attract and maintain quality educators.

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

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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?

Workers should be valued and respected, which includes earned sick time and family leave to care for themselves and loved ones in times of crisis. This year, our bus drivers were provided bereavement leave - something I strongly support.

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

As a member of our Springfield community, I support increased access to safe and affordable housing. This has a direct impact on the success of our students in our district.

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 agree with this statement, but also understand current laws limit the ability of SPS from prioritizing these business relationships.

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?

The board plays a crucial role in ensuring these components are in place by setting policies that promote equity and inclusivity, allocating resources to support student well-being and academic success, and advocating for initiatives that enhance teaching and learning for all students.

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

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to complete your survey. I am running for re-election because public education and our public schools matter to the success of our community. I continue to advocate for the needs of our students and educators and look forward to continuing to serve on the Board of Education, where I know I can make a larger impact during a second term.