

DFL Senior Caucus Endorsement Questions for Minneapolis Public School (MPS) Board Candidates

The DFL Senior Caucus promotes the active participation of Minnesota seniors in the political process, giving a voice to seniors in Minnesota elections and politics. Our goal is to affect public policy by bringing focus and accountability to senior issues, and by working to elect public officials who support these issues.

Responses to the questions below must be submitted in the online form accessible by clicking this link: [Minneapolis School Board submission form](#).

The DFL Senior Caucus will revoke an endorsement if:

1. You are not endorsed by your convention, or
2. You support a candidate who is running against a DFL-endorsed candidate.

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provide in the first question. Please forward the email to Tony Scallon, Political Director for the Minneapolis Chapter:

tscallon@msn.com

1. What is the role of the school board members in building and maintaining relationships between the Board and the Superintendent and staff, the Board and community stakeholders (students, parents, business, community) and relationships with bargaining unit leaders and their members to foster trust, communication, and partnership in serving the needs of families in Minneapolis?
2. As a board member, would you be supportive of the MPS district allowing each individual school to have the flexibility to design and adapt their teaching and learning to meet student needs through a personalized, student-centered program?
3. Major organizational decisions were made by the board to approve a redesign with limited input during 2020 & 2021 under severe restrictions of COVID. Would you support an ongoing system for the district to get input on major issues? How will you ensure multiple and meaningful opportunities for student, family, community, and employee voices to be heard and considered in decisions about their schools and programs in the next three years as the district faces school closings and consolidations. What should be considered in redrawing high school boundaries?
4. What are your ideas to build, strengthen, and sustain working relationships and collaboration between the Minneapolis school district leadership (board and administrators) and city leadership (city council and mayor)?
5. What ideas and strategies do you have to recruit, hire, incent, reward, and retain employees in all bargaining units including administrators, teachers, support staff, and drivers?

6. What are your ideas to change the relationships with bargaining unit leaders and their members to foster and restore trust and communication and partnership in serving students and families in the Minneapolis Public Schools?
7. Many of the students who have left the district are inner city students of color. Would you support efforts by the district to partner with higher education institutions to provide support for MPS teachers in best practices for teaching inner city students of color?
8. What strategies do you have to support the district's efforts to implement the READ Act, the new Minnesota law which requires districts to use literacy curricula for reading instruction and to train teachers in the use of these?
9. How will you ensure the safety of students and staff in and around all Minneapolis schools? Will you support stronger collaboration and relationships between both the Minneapolis Police Department and the Park Police to keep students and employees safe in and around schools including allowing School Resource Officers if requested by the school?
10. How will you help to institute and expand partnerships and programs with regional technical colleges to increase the options for students for technical programs involving workplace skills, knowledge, and opportunities?
11. How will you establish stronger collaboration between MPS and Early Childhood providers including the Minneapolis Park programs to assist child development and registration of families to become a part of MPS elementary programs?
12. MPS is constantly losing students, and with that loss comes reduced per-pupil funding. What ideas and strategies do you have to recruit, incent, reward, and retain students to enroll in MPS programs or return to MPS schools? How will you work with the district administrators to reverse this negative flow?
13. Running as a DFL candidate, do you support these core Minnesota State DFL positions: (Source: Minnesota State DFL Platform) "No discrimination against any person on the basis of race, creed, religion, immigration status, sex, sexual or affectional orientation, HIV status, gender identity or expression, marital or homemaker status, disability or age?" **Yes/No**