

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS –SubDistrict 1 Page 1 of 2

James English (Democrat)		Question	Yolanda Williams (Democrat)	
Date Filed: 2-19-13. 3/1/2013, 4:00pm, caller assigned on behalf of subdistrict residents; 3/3/2013, 3:04pm, left phone message; 3/3/2013, 6:42pm, emailed questionnaire along with answers candidate gave in the fall; 3/8/2013, 6:31pm, left phone message reminder call; 3/8/2013, 6:37pm, sent reminder email; 3/10/2013, 9:30am, candidate called but didn't leave message; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/14/2013, 11:36pm, left phone message; 3/14/2013, 11:45am, sent explanation email; 3/14/2013, 9:45pm, Extra answers and bio provided; 3/18/2013, 8:51am, emailed FINAL deadline to be included is 3/19; 3/18/2013, Morning, ANSWERS provided in phone interview.		Contact Info	Date Filed: 2-26-13. 3/1/2013, 4:00pm, caller assigned on behalf of sub-district residents; 3/3/2013, 11:14pm, email response said would do by 3/8; 3/3/2013, 6:57pm, didn't have phone number, emailed questionnaire; 3/5/2013, 4:53pm, resent correct questionnaire; 3/5/2013, 7:58pm, replied to email - said still aiming for 3/8; 3/8/2013, 6:22pm, sent reminder email extending deadline to 3/11; 3/9/2013, 12:29am, candidate glad to have extra days, "challenge level of the questions are refreshing to think a bit harder and dig deeper into my belief system."; 3/11/2013, 4:11pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED.	
From Douglas County website: Married, Spouse: Myra L. English, # children: 2; High School: A.A. Wilson High (Malverum, AR), College: University of Arkansas & Pine Bluff; University of Nebraska at Omaha; Degrees: Bachelor and Master, Religious Affiliation: Baptist, Church: Salem, Professional Associations: OEA, NSEA, Civic Groups: Kappa Alpha Psi, Native Omahans, Elks, Nat. Hunter Mason, Organizations: Salvation Army, OOTL; Employer: Retired Administrator & Teacher Omaha Public School		01 Biographical	Yolanda R. Williams, who is better known to her students and colleagues as "Ms. Yo", is a program coordinator for the P4K Elementary School Program. She is responsible for program operations at six P4K elementary schools, which include: Fontenelle, Franklin, Kennedy, King, Mt. View and Saratoga. In addition to her work with P4K, Yolanda is also extremely involved in the Omaha community and collaborates with several community-based organizations, providing positive leadership for Omaha youth and their families. Currently she serves as the Education Chair for NAACP and mentors within P4K in 1st and 3rd grade classrooms, and a 4th grade student. Previous service includes as a PTO President (Kellom), Event facilitator for Community in schools and Family First: A call to action as well as service hours at the Open door mission, Salvation Army, LJAC and NAC. Her educational background includes an A.A.S in Interior Design from Metropolitan Community College (2004); and a B.A. in Arts Management w/ Minors in Arts History and Studio Art, Bellevue University (2008). When she isn't working, Yolanda enjoys teaching art to area youth, traveling, participating in local cultural events and spending quality time with her three children, ages 18, 17 and 14.	
We need leadership, vision, and experience and I have all three.	02 Motivation	The opportunity to have a direct hand in positive change for our key stakeholders, to be the identifiable voice of our community, to bring passion to our board of education and to be the inspiration and motivation for those who are in need. The key issues that I hope to address are: 1) Graduate students with the skills to compete on the global level. 2) Allocate funding to put back into our district. 3) Create positive change in the management style within our district. 4) Promote efficiency within the individual classrooms.		
New leadership, vision, and experience	03 Qualifications	14+ years of active engagement within OPS holding a non-biased view of district policies, a deep rooted passion for education/higher learning, proven ability to make necessary decisions even when those decisions are not favorable but beneficial.		
With respect to the environment, I'm with that all the way. The whole weather atmosphere has changed – the snow changes here, all the tornadoes down south, something has triggered that and we need to stop it.		04 Sustainable Development	[not answered]	
The superintendent has the same degree as I have. I'm hoping that we will work together. We need to agree that the main thing is we want the kids to have quality education - if we work together we don't have any problems.		05 Superintendent and School Board	The checks and balance of a proper relationship between the school board and the superintendent should exhibit fair treatment, open and frequent communication built on trust, honesty and transparency. As the new Superintendent Mark Evans should have equal autonomy until he and the new board begin to forge ahead in the task of positive change for our district. The needs of my constituents are my top priority and will do whatever is necessary for their voices to be heard.	
Where would you put it in the curriculum? We have English, math, science, geography, physical education, music, and so forth. Where do we put it? It should be the parents' decision or the church.		08 Abstinence, Contraceptives	My belief is that schools should promote abstinence but should continue to hold sex education classes. In the 21st century our society is overly enriched with sexual connotation and it is in the best interest of our youth to inform them of how their bodies work and all the risks of sexual behaviors, from pregnancy prevention to sexually transmitted diseases.	
I don't care too much for the federal government - we're in that dilemma right now. The parties can't work together. I don't like Federal government dictating policy. Each state should run their own schools.		06 Nationalized Standards	Although I see some benefit of national learning standards, the reality is that not all students will perform proficiently in many assessments. Once we have a national standard of early childhood education and enriched instruction in primary education then assessments will be beneficial but we have some work to do at the local level before we begin attempting this on a national level.	
I don't know too much about what the State Board is doing. The OPS staff we have are on board. Some are doing an excellent job. Why do we have to have them telling us what to do? We have qualified teachers who should be doing their job.		07 State Standards	Nebraska State Board of Education has recently implemented new social studies standards from k-12, covered areas are economics, history, geography and civics. The most insightful piece of these new standards is the trust placed in our educators to implement these standards in ways that will benefit each individual student. In regards to "teaching to the test", I agree with this as long as supplemented learning is implemented during instruction. Our students need to be taught integral information that is not always supported by teaching to the test methods.	
Evolution says we started from a paramecium. Christianity says in Genesis that the world was formed in 7 days. The textbooks are not written like that anymore. Students need to understand both concepts, but where do you put it in the curriculum? Do you do it in biology, or general science or in social science? I don't know where you would put it. At this point in time, is it really something the kids need to know?		09 Scientifically Criticize Evolutionary Theory	[not answered]	
I think all three. We've done it all - car pollution, the way factories are polluting the air. There are more requirements for cars, less emissions. I think we're working on it.		10 Global Warming	In my opinion, Global warming has been proven time and time again through various research methods. Curriculum should be based on current scientific research in the cycles of nature to include mankind's effect of the new patterns in our weather. This is necessary as our weather patterns are beginning to change drastically across the globe.	

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That a tough issue right now. Ernie Chambers is trying to get the pledge of allegiance out of schools. When we went to school, we only did pledge. Praying was done in the church - it should be done there. We just have too much in public schools. Worship as you please. If public schools want to do that - it would be up to the members of the board. To me I enjoy saying the pledge— that was it and we went on with curriculum. When I went to church, I prayed.	11 Religious Freedom	This has always been a very sensitive topic in America, however our national anthem decrees that we are the land of the free and as we sing our national anthem at school sponsored events, it is in our best interest as a free nation to respect the religious beliefs of all to include those who have no religious beliefs. The only discretion in my eyes is that this does not interfere with instruction and learning within our schools.
Whatever your preference is fine. But a man should marry a woman. If the gay people want to be gay they can be gay. What do the kids know about that question? I don't see it in the black community at all. Not discussed at all, it's just seen on television.	12 Lifestyles	In the Declaration of Independence it is stated that all men are created equal, and many have fought for equality of people with many other congressional acts since. My solemn belief is that in the best interest of humanity our schools should teach and promote the equality of all.
I grew up in the public school, have taught in public schools, as far as support given - it would be up to the people in that community.		13 Education Support [not answered]
I'm retired, so I don't have an employer. The only business I have is tutoring math at my house for free. I want to help kids, that's why I'm running for school board. One of my pet peeves is kids should know their multiplication tables by 4th grade. If they don't know them, they should not be passed on.	14 Education Business Connection	One of the reasons that I decided to run for school board was my business relationships working within schools in mentoring capacities. I strongly promote these types of business relationships as it helps to serve our unique and diverse student population and promotes community building.
Go back to the old school - my mother spanked me, but it wasn't child abuse; it got my attention. You can be positive or negative. As a teacher we can't touch them, even to compliment - that's why we have problems in OPS. Teachers are scared of the kids. If kids know you're afraid, you have a problem. Parents should be included. I didn't like that they were suspending the student and he would be home when both parents were working. I would get written permission from the parents to do two swats. That kid never showed up in my office again. Parents shouldn't have to leave their jobs for 3 day suspension when the kid should be in school.		15 Parental Rights Amendment As an active and engaged parent I fully support parental rights. We may not all agree on many cultural differences but it is the best interest of our children to support parental rights as long as parents are not harming, abusing or neglecting their children.
I read the brochure they sent, so I know my duties. I'm prepared to do what the Board does. Concerning the Constitution - I'm with that all the way. I had two brothers who died in Vietnam, having given their lives for our country. I gave their flag to North High. It's the one that's flying there now.		16 Governing documents [not answered]
That's why I'm running. I know what my constituents want, they want a qualified person with leadership, vision, and experience for quality education, I worked 32 years with OPS, my wife worked 31 years with OPS, and my sister 29 years. With 90 years of experience, we know what our constituents need.	17 Constituents' concerns	My plans are to remain active in various community roles and continue my open door policy for constituents to express concerns and desires. I will represent all stakeholders in our school district and will continue to be the voice for our community.
Like I just said, 90 years - I was a math teacher and administrator; my wife taught language arts and social studies, my sister was math teacher. Leadership, vision, experience.	18 Family	My family has been very important in my decision to run for the school board. They have been my inspiration and motivation and it is their encouragement and willingness to share our unique story that made my final decision. This position will reaffirm our belief of community building and service.
Once I get there, and find out what is I needed - I will make decisions based on what the kids need, what constituents want, what OPS needs, to further quality education for all kids in OPS.		19 Personal/ Political [not answered]
My grandfather was a minister. I know the Bible very well. My philosophy of education: Treat people like you want to be treated and the Lord will bless you.	20 Political decisions	As a spiritual being the religious principles that I subscribe to rule my character, moral and ethical decisions. Knowing that there are varying degrees of beliefs and opinions, in which I cannot speak on, my journey has led me to be humble, nurturing, empathetic and loving of all.
Should be decided by the mother. It's her decision. Also depends if raped. It would be her choice. I don't want to be God. If I was God, I would say all babies should life. It's a blessing that a woman can do that. Capital punishment - if a person goes out and kills people, maybe capital punishment would be a deterrent. Discussing how to do it - lethal injection, electrocution. Something needs to be done to stop this crime - they're on death row too long - we're paying more for incarcerations than any other country in the world.		21 Abortion/ capital punishment My belief is that as humans we were all given free will to decide our actions and all of our actions have consequences, whether good or bad. Every situation will vary and there is no perfect answer to fit all situations.
I look for the person who is qualified. I think the President was. Some of the candidates had some skeletons in their closet. The best man won.	22 Past President	The key considerations I used in my 2012 Presidential vote were: security of my children's future (education, physical, and professional endeavors), nation building theories, sustainable education, economic development and advancement and sustainable energy.
As mentioned above, my brothers were killed in Vietnam, and their flag flies at North High. I would like to see a restructuring of the schools where at the end of 9th grade, those who want to be college someday would go to a college prep school paid for by the taxpayers. Others could go to a trade school. That would keep them in school learning, and get them off the streets.	23 Anything else?	Yolanda has displayed incredible self-determination and a drive toward achievement through hard work, academic excellence, diverse cultural exposure and years of service to her community. She has beaten the odds of becoming a statistic and forging into a life pledge of leadership. Her educational background includes an A.A.S in Interior Design from Metropolitan Community College (2004) and a B.A. in Arts Management w/ Minors in Arts History and Studio Art, Bellevue University (2008).
married, Spouse: Myra, #of children: 2, High School: A.A. Wilson High (Malverum, AR), College: University of Arkansas & Pine Bluff; University of Nebraska at Omaha, Degrees: Bachelor and Master, Church: Salem Baptist, Professional Associations: OEA, NSEA, Civic Groups: Kappa Alpha Psi, Native Omahans, Elks, Nat. Hunter Mason, Organizations: Salvation Army, OOTL, Employer: Retired Administrator & Teacher OPS	Extra biographical	single, #of children: 3, College: Metropolitan Community College, Bellevue University, Degrees: AAS in Interior Design, BA in Arts Management, Church: Baptist, Civic Groups: NAACP, Employer: Partnership 4 Kids,

See next page for actual questions asked:

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD Questions

Question Key	Actual Questions asked. “*d” questions offered as minimums to answer
Date Filed	The date the candidate officially filed with the County election office.
Contact Info	Contact Information - ranging from the details of when we inputted the candidate's responses, to attempts to establish contact, to if we still need a volunteer caller, to if the candidate is unopposed and therefore not on the list to contact.
01 Biographical	*Please include biographical information, e.g. family members, church affiliation, employment, etc., you consider important for voters to know and/or reference your website.
02 Motivation	*What has motivated you to seek this office? Is there a key issue you hope to address?
03 Qualifications	*What three primary qualifications do you bring to this office?
04 Sustainable Development	* Discuss how the sustainable development presented in the UN Agenda 21 comprehensive plan can be a benefit or detriment to the citizens. What do you believe should be the government's role in establishing green policy?
05 Superintendent and School Board	How do you view the check and balance relationships between the superintendent and the school board? How do you picture representing the interests of the constituents if they differ with the superintendent's?
06 Nationalized Standards	*Some are pushing for nationalized learning standards (federal curriculum) and assessment systems. Do you agree or disagree with that idea? Why?
07 State Standards	Discuss the various curriculum standards that the State Board of Education has been working on. What is your thinking concerning the "teaching to the test" approach?
08 Abstinence, Contraceptives	Should schools teach abstinence-only sex education? Why or why not? Should schools teach about contraceptive use?
09 Scientifically Criticize Evolutionary Theory	*Should teachers be required to include scientific criticisms of evolutionary theory in their science curriculum? Why or why not?
10 Global Warming	Should curriculum include debate as to whether global warming exists, is man-caused, or part of the cycles of nature?
11 Religious Freedom	Should Muslim students have freedom to pray at specified times? Should Christian students have freedom to pray in public? Should those without a specific religion be free to cancel other religious practices?
12 Lifestyles	*Should schools promote all lifestyles, beliefs and values to be equal?
13 Education Support	What support (e.g. vouchers, tax credit) should alternative schools (whether charter, home school, private school) have from taxes collected for education?
14 Education Business Connection	Do you, a family member, or your employer have any business relationships serving education? Please describe.
15 Parental Rights Amendment	*Do you oppose or support a Parental Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? Why? (See www.parentalrights.org for proposed language.)
(These last questions we ask regardless of what office is being sought. You may not think these relate to your office, but how you respond to these controversial questions might help the voter know how you would respond to other controversies in office.)	
16 Governing documents	What do you see as the major governing documents for this position? Have you read them? What does it mean to "uphold the Constitution" in the position you seek?
17 Constituents' concerns	*What plans do you have for remaining aware of your constituents' concerns and desires?
18 Family	What role has your family played in your seeking this office? In holding this position, how do you foresee it affecting your family?
19 Personal/Political	To what degree should an office holder's personal principles be reflected in political decision making? To whom/what will you go for counsel in decision making?
20 Political decisions	Is it appropriate to use the Bible or other religious writings in making political decisions? If so, what would you use? If not, why not?
21 Abortion/capital punishment	*What definition do you give for each of these terms: pro-life, pro-choice. Which is your view and to what level of conviction do you hold that view? Some say capital punishment is a pro-life issue. What is your perspective?
22 Past President	*What key considerations did you use in deciding how you voted for President in 2012?
23 Anything else?	Declare anything else you want voters to know about you.
Extra biographical	Biographical information from what candidates provided the Douglas County Election office and/or other web resources. Candidates are asked to email kathy@voterinformation.org if any information is inaccurate. When known, candidate's website is noted.