

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS –SubDistrict 7

Page 1 of 2, Part 1 of 2

Question	Andy Allen (Republican)
Date Filed	2-25-13
Contact Info	2/26/2013, 10:42pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/9/2013, 3:38pm, emailed questionnaire after candidate returned call; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/13/2013, 8:47pm, reminder email of 3/14/13 deadline from resident; 3/14/2013, 6:46pm, reminder email of 3/14/13 deadline; 3/14/2013, ANSWERS RECEIVED.
01 Biographical	[not answered]
02 Motivation	The reason I am running, and the reason that I feel that I would be the best choice for the School Board; I understand that it's about the children and that we need to make certain that we offer all of our kids a quality education in a place of security and stability. For me it's all about the kids.
03 Qualifications	I have been involved with OPS for several years. I became involved when my daughter, now a junior at Omaha North High School, was in Elementary School. While Briann was in elementary School I was asked to be one of the founders of the Watch D.O.G.S. program at her elementary school, and later served as Top Dog recruiting and coordinating other fathers and male family members to spend some time in the school. Through the work with that program I spent a great deal of time in the classroom and understand the issues teachers and our students face. I also spent time visiting with other organizations and community leaders involved in making a better life for our children. I have served on the OPS's Parental Involvement Committee and the Magnet Coordinating Council and have and have a strong knowledge of the schools of OPS. This means I can be a strong ambassador for the many programs we have that are working, and have the ability to find those things that are not so we can make the needed changes, with the support of families and teachers. I also have experience in the operations of organizational boards, through my work there I not only know how to operate as a board but also to build coalitions and consensus so we can accomplish our goals. I also have worked on many issues with the Nebraska Legislature, there are many issues where we need to have the support of the Legislature to fix the problem, and I know how to work with the Senators to bring about needed change.
04 Sustainable Development	This is a very large topic that has many facets. We have an obligation to use our natural resources in an intelligent and respectful manner, but yet we have UN Agenda 21 and several government subdivisions trying to tell us how we should be doing so. I find Agenda 21 to be more about control than good policy about the uses for our natural resources, it is an attempt for the UN to gain control over a part of how we operate here in the United States. Do I think we need to educate our children to be able to make wise choices on how we use our resources, yes, but we should not be teaching them that the only answer is to turn over control to this shadow organization that is Agenda 21.
05 Superintendent and School Board	The Superintendent works at the pleasure of the Board of Education and thereby for the constituents of the Board Members. The needs of the community are the needs that the Board needs to meet and thereby the job of the Superintendent. When there is a conflict the needs of the community must be the prevailing interest. There are times that individuals from the community may not like the outcome of any position, we never all agree about anything, but the overriding factor is what is best for our students and their families.
06 Nationalized Standards	Our schools need to be able to meet local needs, and thereby need to set local standards. In order for students to be able to move between communities and educational opportunities there needs to be some very loose overall goals and directions for education, but the standards and curriculum must be set locally in order for our educational institutions to meet the needs of the local community.
07 State Standards	I have recently been involved in the discussions for the recently set Social Studies standards; this is the most recently reviewed and updated. There have also recently been new standards set in Mathematics and Science. "Teaching to the test" is a problem and is just a symptom of a larger problem. As Government entities have set standards at a level higher than the local control that our schools should be managed by, they have set requirements that take education away from being able to meet local needs to reaching a State or National standard. In order to reach these standards we end up teaching what is on the test rather than reaching the educational goals needed to have good citizens able to fill needed positions within our local communities.
08 Abstinence, Contraceptives	Abstinence must be a part of or sex education, but since not all of our students have the same moral and spiritual background or support we also need to be able to address the needs of the portion of our community that abstinence only does not address, so the teaching of contraception is needed. But this needs to be taught not as a first choice and in a responsible manner.
09 Scientifically Criticize Evolutionary Theory	Evolution is a theory and cannot be proven, and even as important to scientific education evolution is (it teaches observation and questioning the world around you) the criticisms that show why this is a theory and not a law of science is needed to also make certain that students understand what it takes to prove a theory.
10 Global Warming	A major piece of Educational goals is to teach our kids on how to question information from our world around us, that is how we grow our knowledge as a society as a whole. The questioning of if Global Warming exists or what its possible effects are as well as other possible causes of the environmental changes some have witnessed around us. I have no issue with discussing Global Warming, but those discussions need to be based upon questioning the world around us and studying how to study the world around us.
11 Religious Freedom	I support the freedom of religion that is not a freedom from religion. We need to be able to respect others religious choices and make reasonable accommodations for them, as long as they do not impact the overall needs of our classrooms. As long as allowing anyone to practice their religious beliefs does not try to force their beliefs on others, or stop others from the practice of their beliefs we need to allow it.
12 Lifestyles	It is not the place for schools to teach morals and values, those are to come from families and the schools need to support the morals and values of our community and families.
13 Education Support	This is a tough subject, competition makes everyone better. But there have been many states that have instituted these programs where they have been failures, just as there have been successes. I would need to compare any plan to those that have been shown to be successful programs to evaluate the value of the proposal.
14 Education Business Connection	None of my immediate family is involved in education or supporting services.
15 Parental Rights Amendment	This is an interesting subject and I need more time to read all the information supplied. The right of the parent to raise their child should be recognized as a basic fundamental right and this may need to be addressed.
16 Governing documents	Chapter 79 Nebraska Statutes, yes I have and would review them again as needed to make certain that the actions of the Board are in accordance with the statutes.

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS –SubDistrict 7

Page 2 of 2, Part 1 of 2 (cont.)

Question	Andy Allen (Republican)
17 Constituents' concerns	I have an open contact policy, my phone number is publically available, I also maintain a facebook page and respond to emails as quickly as possible. If I am not able to be an effective listener to constituent's issues and concerns I cannot be an effective board member. I cannot know everything and will need the support and knowledge of my constituents to effectively operate as a board member.
18 Family	My family has been supportive, of course a teenage daughter is always in need of a father's time, but she looks at this as me just expanding my role from being there for her and her friends to also being there for all the rest of the OPS students.
19 Personal/Political	Everyone needs to hold true to their principles and values, when I am struggling with issues I have strong family support and the ability to discuss anything with my wife, my mother and several other family members whose counsel I value. This extends to include several friends and others that I respect for their knowledge in individual area's and whose counsel on those subjects I highly value.
20 Political decisions	The Bible is an important piece of who I am, it has shaped my morals and ethics. The values one learns from reading the Bible is an important part of who I am and those lessons are a part of my basic principles for living life.
21 Abortion/capital punishment	I cannot support the taking of the life of an unborn child, but yet I have objections to forcing my views upon another, so I would consider myself pro-choice where life is a choice that is preferred and should be encouraged. Capital punishment is simply receiving the consequences for the choices a person has made.
22 Past President	I have many concerns on the impact of the government upon my personal rights, and I voted for the person that I felt would best be suited to protect and not infringe upon my rights.
23 Anything else?	[not answered]
Extra biographical	married, Spouse: Christina Averill-Allen, #of children: 1, High School: Plainview High School - Plainview, NE, Church: First Lutheran Church, Professional Associations: , Civic Groups: Board of Directors - Nebraska Firearms Owners Association, Employer: Lockheed Martin,

OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS –SubDistrict 7

Page 2 of 2, Part 2 of 2

Question	Katie Underwood (Democrat)
Date Filed	2-22-13
Contact Info	2/26/2013, 10:42pm, resident of district caller assigned; 3/9/2013, 2:52pm, emailed questionnaire; 3/10/2013, 9:52pm, candidate confirmed receiving questionnaire; 3/10/2013, Noon, sent report of extending to March 14 deadline; 3/13/2013, 8:44pm, reminder email of 3/14/13 deadline from resident; 3/14/2013, 6:46pm, reminder email of 3/14/13 deadline; 3/14/2013, 8:06pm, ANSWERS RECEIVED
01 Biographical	I am a civil engineer/project manager at Olsson Associates and have worked there for ten years. I am from Lincoln, Nebraska, and graduated from Lincoln East High School. I received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from UNL. I have a husband, Jim, and we've been married from almost 3 years.
02 Motivation	I've been very involved in the community as a board member and chair of the Greater Omaha Young Professionals, an active member of the Omaha by Design Redevelopment Finance Committee, and I am a leader within Olsson Associates as a project manager. I've realized through my involvement that our community can only be as strong as its public schools. I come from a family of educators and feel that I would bring a big-picture perspective to the school board in setting policy and goals for the district.
03 Qualifications	- Experience serving on community boards and within the private sector -Focus on collaboration and communication -Dedication to a cause I am passionate about
Extra biographical	married, Spouse: Jim Underwood, High School: Lincoln East, College: University of Nebraska - Lincoln, Degrees: BS in Civil Engineering, Professional Associations: Omaha by Design, USGBC Flatwater Chapter, Civic Groups: Greater Omaha Young Professionals, Employer: Olsson Associates,

See next page for details of 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.