

EL PASO COUNTY REPUBLICAN

2017 School Board Candidate Survey

Thank you for running and for caring about our children and their futures.

We are asking for your thoughts and inputs to the following survey questions so that we may share your perspectives with our community on our webpage, www.gopelpaso.com. Your survey will be posted as a pdf file, and you are encouraged to return the survey in a pdf file format with your last name added in the file name. We plan to post it no later than Oct 16, 2017, the day the ballots are in the mail. Once uploaded, we will be sending an email notice to our community of over 5,000 emails to look at the responses. We will also list all candidates who did not respond to the survey by Oct 9, 2017 so voters will be aware we did not intentionally forget your survey response.

Many answers have a word count limit. We suggest paying attention to the word count as readers will only read for so long and then skip through your response, possibly missing something you consider important.

Reminder: **Return by Monday, Oct 9, 2017, emailing it to homeofthefreeandthebrave@yahoo.com**. Surveys received later will not be posted on the www.gopelpaso.com website. Please send us your responses in pdf format and add you last name to the file name. Good Luck!

Contact Information:

Name Eric Davis

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Background Information:

Please provide a brief summary of you personally (family, education, occupation). (100 words or less) *I was born on the Air Force Academy to an officer in the Air Force (Cadet Grad). I have lived in the District for over 20 years and, in fact, graduated from Pine Creek High School. I have 2 wonderful boys ages 2 & 6. Both will end up going through the district. I personally have experienced many different types of education: home school, private school, and public school. I have seen both the good and the bad of each. I am a small business owner and started my own martial arts school whose primary purpose is to develop students of character.*

Have you or any relatives been students or employees in the school district?

Circle one: *Yes*

If so, please provide specifics. (25 words or less)

~ I graduated from the District

~ My son was at Rockrimmon with both my sons' futures being in the district.

~ I also have taught an accredited P.E. Martial Arts program over the last 6 years within the district (Pine Creek and DCC).

Have you ever served on a volunteer board? Circle one:

Yes

If so, what was/were your position(s)? (30 words)

I am currently serving on a board for a new charter school in District 20 (New Summit Charter)

Survey Questions:

- 1. Why do you want to serve on the school board, and what do you see as your role as a school board member? (300 words or less)** *I believe that the world is tired of politicians and bureaucrats but is in desperate need of leaders. We need leaders that are focused on our kids long-term and who understand the needs to raise up strong students who understand the constitution and its values. I feel that I can help create an environment for the district that creates a place for kids to learn traditional American values. I will protect the district students from the overreaching hands of the government and help create a place that seeks out excellence and integrity in the schools. I believe it is also my responsibility if I was to be on the board to protect and be responsible with the taxes that go toward our students. It would also be my role to ensure that whatever superintendent is over the district is asked the hard questions and is held accountable to the people.*
- 2. What role, if any should other government entities (city/county/state/federal) have in the local school board? (120 words or less)** *I believe that government in general should stay out of many school issues and allow the local people make the majority of the decisions. Bureaucracy and politics tend to interfere with a child's education and take the focus from developing strong thinkers and learners to political agendas. In my opinion, the more local control for a district, the better.*
- 3. What is the most critical issue in the district and how would you address it? (120 words or less)** *I feel that one of the biggest issues facing the district is the suicide epidemic over the past several years. This is a major issue that can't easily be fixed by policy but by a culture*

shift in the community. We need to seriously look at how we are creating an uplifting environment that rewards hard work and encourages students to live for excellence while also giving struggling students a good vision for the future. We need balance in our system of both excellence and grace.

4. What will your relationship be with associations/unions related to school employees?

(50 words or less) *Very little to none. My focus will be toward the child's education. I believe that a good teacher is a huge asset to a growing student and if the teacher does well, should be graded on his or her performance in the classroom, above whether or not they belong to a union. We need to be sure that the interest of the student and his or her educational excellence is always the first to be considered.*

5. Have you received any campaign contributions from a school employee association/union? Circle one:

NO

6. What is your position on school finance/funding? (250 words or less) *School financing is a very important issue and should always be focused primarily on the student's success and educational development. We need to focus more on educational performance than on fancy buildings and unnecessary ego boosting. Teachers should also be rewarded for their performance and be encouraged with appropriate rewards for creating strong-performing students. There also needs to be a high level of accountability within the district that watches how the money is spent after we approved the new bond.*

7. What is your position on public charter schools and their contribution to the district community? (200 words or less) *I am a huge advocate for charter schools and parent choice. I understand that not every school is a right fit for every child. I believe that parents should have the choice where to put their child and also take the responsibility of that choice. I have sat on the board of a Charter school we are trying to add to district 20 for last half year and I would love to see more choices in education. Charter schools give the families the power to chose a school that fits their needs, whether its an emphasis on STEM programs, arts, or even special education. Charters allow more parent-driven decisions and less government interference.*

8. What is your position on parental choice for schools? (200 words or less)

I believe that parents should be in control of their child's future. I also feel that government has a very small role to play to in a child's education. I believe that not every school is a good fit for every student and, in fact, sometimes students go through a season in their life where a different type of education fits best. For example sometimes the rigorous nature of a

charter school can be very beneficial, while in other seasons the flexibility of home school is a great option. And then there are other times where a public-funded school for a specific course is an excellent choice, such as an auto mechanic class which would be a resource neither home school or a charter school could afford. The biggest thing is to give families choices and create a system that allows more control and power given to the parents rather than the government.

9. What is your position on Common Core? (75 words or less)

I think common core is a terrible idea for our children and puts too much control over our schools, teachers, and curriculum into government hands. National standards are a good idea in theory but when we dumb down the standards to allow low performing schools to look good we, in essence, create a system that forces all schools to teach to the test, versus teaching students to love learning and seek higher achievements.

10. What endorsements have you received? (100 words or less)

Stan Vanderwerf – County commissioner District 3

Peggy Littleton – County commissioner District 5

Hans Watz – Student and parent at my Martial arts school

Victor Marx – Christian Missionary, Martial artist, and speaker

Reference Links:

Parental choice. <http://parentschallenge.org/>

School choice. <https://www.edchoice.org/school-choice/what-is-school-choice/>

Common Core. <https://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/factsheetsandfaqs>

School Finance. <https://www.casb.org/Page/433>