

1. *What do you think are the biggest challenges currently facing our public school and what are your plans to address them?*

The biggest challenges we are facing are the need to focus on supporting the growth of the child as a whole. This includes investing in resources for social and emotional learning, mental health, and supporting students' individualized and unique learning styles. Another challenge is to create and define a new normal for schools where students learn effectively and safely. Schools will continue to be redefined as we plan for resumption. My plan is to invest in creating equitable opportunities for all students as we plan for resumption. Lastly, and most importantly, I believe we should dismantle the Systemic barriers to students' learning and growth. This includes racial, language, houselessness barriers. I believe our work on racial equity in education policy will be an important first step.

2. *What is your definition of equity and what is its importance in education?*

Equity is allocating resources where the need is. It is important in order to create equal opportunity for all students. Due to the systemic injustices in the community and school systems, it is important for us to look at the opportunity gap and focus on providing resources to students in order to provide them all with an opportunity to learn and grow.

3. *Describe the achievement gap in your district and what you think can be done about it. How could the Student Success Act Funds be used to address this gap?*

The achievement gap is a result of systemic injustices that created the gap in opportunities and resources offered to our students. Currently, the school district is reaching increasing its graduation rates and closing the achievement gap. Three years ago, the achievement gap in graduation rates was at 5% points where Hispanic/Latinx students were at 84% out of an overall 89% for the whole district (<https://www.csd509j.net/news/2017-18-graduation-rates-continue-on-upward-trend#038;swpmtxnonce=0fa33c7ced>). Graduation rates continued to increase and the achievement gap decrease in 2018-19 (<https://www.csd509j.net/news/2018-19-graduation-rates-reach-highest-ever-in-corvallis-school-district#038;swpmtxnonce=0fa33c7ced>), and last year at 90% overall, 88% for Latinx/Hispanic, and 84% for students experiencing poverty (<https://www.csd509j.net/news/corvallis-school-district-graduation-data-released-2020#038;swpmtxnonce=0fa33c7ced>).

We are allocating the Student Success Act in resources to support our students learn core instruction, credit recovery, social and emotional learning resources, and receive a trauma-informed curriculum that helps them progress and graduate on time. I am hoping to continue to use the Student Success Act in a way that supports more of these opportunities for our students.

Question 3 continued:

I share this with a word of caution, the state Legislature Ways and Means proposed agenda of \$9.1B includes \$2.2M cuts in the school's general fund. This means the Student Success Act monies may be jeopardized if the State does not maintain service-level funding of \$9.6B for the school's general fund. This is an important role for school board members, is the awareness of state funding sources and advocating for appropriate funding for our schools.

4. How can schools address the learning needs of students from other cultures and languages?

Developing and approving a culturally appropriate curriculum is an important factor in supporting students from all cultures and languages to grow and be ready to engage in an increasingly diverse community and state. The school board has invested in and approved the social studies curriculum that accomplishes that. In addition, the school district offers the Dual Language Immersion Program that helps students learn two languages and be proficient and literate in both of them

5. What is your vision for the future of education in your community? What would be your role as a school board member in realizing this vision?

My vision for education in our community is that every student graduate, students graduate with a plan for their future, and to closes the opportunity gap for all students. I believe this can be accomplished by stating clear goals for the school board such as the Corvallis School Board Strategic Goals 2018-2023, <https://www.csd509j.net/about-us/school-board/board-goals/>. the role of the board is to focus on these goals, celebrate accomplishments, oversight and hold the district accountable using progress toward the strategic goals. Board members are expected to be in the community and advocate for students in state and federal Legislatures.

I outlined more detailed vision on how to move the school board goals forward on my website here: <https://votesami.com/sbgoal1>

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