

1. The history of religions is an important subject which should be taught in History class.
2. The scientific facts of evolution and climate change should be taught in Science class. Creationism should not be taught as if it was factual. It should be taught as part of the history of religion.
3. Sex education should be taught beginning at the pre-teen level. Abstinence should be taught along with other methods of birth control.
4. Vouchers which enable parents to send their children to private schools at taxpayer expense are wrong and should be discontinued.
5. Public school choice: There is an increasing amount of controversy over the role of alternatives to traditional public education.

Charter schools managed by non-profit organizations have existed for years to meet needs of students not met by traditional public schools. Those charter schools have long been some of the best schools in the district. Brooks-DeBartolo Collegiate High School, Learning Gate Community School and Lutz Preparatory School are excellent examples.

The emergence of charter schools effectively managed by for-profit corporations are siphoning off significant amounts of funding from the already massively underfunded traditional public-school system. The performance of those charter schools is open to question as they are not subject to the same state laws and Department of Education rules as traditional schools.

6. Corporal punishment should not be allowed in public schools.
7. I would explain that I trust the judgment of the persons responsible for the selection of the books to be included in the classroom and the school library. I would encourage the right of a curious mind to read a library book which sparks his or her interest.
8. None.
9. I'm a retired controller & CFO. A 45-year resident of Hillsborough county with 2 sons and 4 grandchildren who have attended or are attending public schools. There are two reasons I am running. The first is that the state of Florida ranks 44th in the nation in the per-pupil funding of K-12 public education and 47th in average teacher salaries.

We should be in the top quarter. However, if we accept the median as our short-term goal, we must begin to discuss the cost of even that modest target and where additional funding could come from.

The huge number to accomplish such a goal is \$6 to \$7 billion as calculated from the NEA's ranking of the states! As that number sinks in, what will be a surprise to many is that there is hope that at least a significant portion of the funds can be found without raising taxes.

The second reason I am running is that I believe that at least one of the seven school board members should be intimately familiar with school district funding and spending and be willing to explain it to Florida's citizens. Most of the candidates tout their educational background and ideas of how to improve education. I am that different kind of candidate with a financial background.

Adequate funding is currently the single most important issue in the capability of a school district to accomplish its mission. If funding can be brought up to an adequate level, then curriculum, the quality of instruction and the challenge of engaging every student in their own education would return to the top of the list of challenges where they belong.

My platform initially had two goals and now has three.

The new #1 during the Pandemic is assuring the health and safety of both students and school staff.

#2 is to convince voters to demand that the Florida legislature reorder its funding priorities to place the protection and education of our children at the top. My plan is to speak loudly and often about the need for \$6 to \$7 billion more dollars to bring Florida's per-pupil funding from 43rd to the median among the states. Without enough money to go around, school districts have had to struggle to hire and retain underpaid teachers and support staff, defer building maintenance, bus only those students living more than two miles from school and function without modern technology and other resources so desperately needed in the effort to accomplish the mission of preparing students for life.

#3 is to focus more resources on schools with under performing students. It is not enough to provide equal **opportunity** for a great education to students of all races. What is even more important is the effort to improve educational **outcomes** for all races. That will require more, and better resources applied to the key issues of Kindergarten readiness and providing that teacher, counselor, mentor, or community member who can find the key to engaging each child in their own education. More funding is needed to establish "Family Service Centers" and "Wrap Around Community Schools" in the areas of greatest need.

A detailed explanation of K-12 Public Education funding and spending can be found at KidsFirstFlorida.com.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.