

NJPSA Questionnaire for NJ Legislature - 2021 General Election

User: Fadden, Pamela / Email: info@melandpam4ld26.com

Survey answered on: 9/8/2021 02:23 AM

1. Legislative District #: (answer type: Number)

26

2. Office You Are Seeking: (answer type: Short Text)

State Assembly

3. Party: (answer type: Short Text)

Democrat

4. Campaign Phone Number: (answer type: Short Text)

862-314-0743

5. Campaign Mailing Address: (answer type: Long Text)

PO BOX 2219

Oak Ridge, NJ 07438

6. Staff Contact Name and Phone Number (if preferred): (answer type: Long Text)

Dylan Terpstra

973-945-7181

7. State investment in a state level school facilities strategic plan to address long-ignored school infrastructure needs across all school districts in need in New Jersey (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

8. Supporting school employees' (including NJPSA members') rights to collective bargaining (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

9. An ongoing commitment to the scheduled phase-up of funding of public employee pensions according to the schedule set forth in the law (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

10. Private school vouchers in any form (tuition tax credits, opportunity scholarships, etc.) (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Oppose

11. No new unfunded state mandates for public schools (answer type: Multiple Options With Single Answer)

Support

12. What health care policy approaches and priorities do you support for our public schools with the goal of maintaining in-person learning? In your mind, since educators are not health professionals, when do you believe a statewide approach is needed and when is a local approach more appropriate in deciding

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pandemic-related school health policies? (answer type: Long Text)

I support the state mask mandate that is in effect for the 2021-2022 school year. I also support the state mandate requiring teachers (school staff) to get vaccinated or get COVID tested weekly. I believe that during a pandemic the statewide approach is best for the overall health of all students, educators, support staff and administrative staff; under a statewide approach there is still plenty of room for locals/districts to implement their own policies procedures. As a teacher involved in the reopening of school; I believe that over the last year and a half, superintendents and administrators would have preferred clearer guidelines, in a more timely manner so they could implement them appropriately.

13. What issues do you see in this area and how can you assist local districts in addressing school infrastructure needs in both SDA (Schools Development Authority) districts and regular operating districts? (answer type: Long Text)

I believe that school infrastructure should be apart of the Federal bipartisan infrastructure investment. I also believe that New Jersey infrastructure (including schools) should receive more federal funding due to the amount of federal tax dollars New Jersey residents pay that support other states. My campaign is focused on Economy, Education, and Infrastructure. I have 20 years of teaching experience and 7 years of union leadership experience. If elected to the Assembly, I would make a point that bills like A665 "Temperature Control Bill" need to having funding built into them. Another idea that could bring more funding to infrastructure (including schools) is to charge higher tolls for out of state residents or in state residents that don't use EZPass.

14. As a legislator, will you support professional educators in their work with their students and avoid the temptation to mandate specific programs for every school district as we work to meet the individual needs of each student, school and district? How will you support the work of educators and principals in your district? (answer type: Long Text)

Yes, one size fits all does not work for every student, school or district. As a legislator I want to make sure that schools have the necessary funding past the Cares Act to employee staff such as guidance counselors, social workers and special education teachers that can help with these issues. Schools also need the resources to higher more paraprofessionals and instructional aides. When principles can give educators small class sizes and proper resources then educators, aides and guidance staff can teach and support the students so they meet and achieve their individual needs.

15. Do you believe New Jersey students should pass a state graduation test or demonstrate proficiency in math and language arts standards as described above to earn a high school diploma? (answer type: Long Text)

The PARCC assessment and common core tests that have been costing the state approximately \$33 million dollars a year do not help students learn and do not provide the students with timely results and feedback. Teacher created assessments play an important roe in the learning process; teachers consistently use both formative and summative assignments along with project based lessons and assignments to educate students. I believe that there should be a graduation standard that needs to be met but it shouldn't cost the state millions of dollars which should instead be put into school infrastructure; proper ventilation, proper heating and cooling which will directly improve student learning. I agree with using tests that are already created like PSAT, SAT, ASVAB and the portfolio process.

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16. As a legislator, what will you do to promote education as a positive career path to our youth and what types of initiatives will you consider to enhance the educational career pipeline for the future? How will you promote diversity within our future workforce? (answer type: Long Text)

There are currently two bills in the assembly that allow for grants and scholarships to be created to promote criminal justice and policing as career paths. I believe similar bills would be an asset for education. The state can offer incentives in the form of grants for college costs for students that are education majors, the state could also have grants that help pay student loans for educators that sign contracts with public school districts, the state can also offer minority students grants and scholarships. As a state government we also need to have a positive approach towards education and educators if we want young people to join the field. We can not attack teachers, devalue their pensions, and take away benefits and still expect our youth to want to join the profession. Our youth are very aware of the society around them and the way people are treated; they don't want to rack up student loan debit for a career that isn't valued. Across the board we need to find a way to make college more affordable.

17. Will you vote for legislation (S-3284 (Greenstein)/ A-5011 (Wimberly)) that provides the same accidental death benefit to school employees who lost their lives in the service of their school community while performing such essential services? (answer type: Yes/No)

Yes

18. Thinking about the future, what are your goals for our public education system and what actions will you take as a state legislator to support our educators, our students and our schools? (answer type: Long Text)

As a mother, teacher, local president and negotiator I support NJ's public schools - the best in the nation! Over my 20 career I've become more involved in legislative actions that impact the livelihood of educators and students' wellbeing. I know what middle class NJ families need and that starts with public education. Many of our schools are old and need to be brought up to current building standards but this can not be done under a 2% cap. In order to improve the conditions of our schools there needs to be an influx of state and federal funding. I will work in Trenton to make sure our children have a safe learning environment. This includes school infrastructure, social justice, social emotional and mental health services, special education, and less focus on expensive high stakes testing. Todays students are vulnerable - teachers need to have the necessary tools to do their jobs and take care of their students.