

TWENTY QUESTIONS WITH PALOUSE PROACTIVE

Dean Kinzer, SCHOOL BOARD

1. **What in your background leads you to believe you would be a successful School Board member?** I have served on the Pullman School board (one of the highest rated school districts in the state) since 2001. The Pullman School District is in a much better financial position, much improved facilities and is offering more class options since I have been on the board. We have an excellent team.
2. **What do you hope to achieve if elected to the School Board?** To continue to improve all aspects of the district by doing what is best for the students.
3. **What do you believe the School District is doing well?** Providing the opportunity for a well-rounded education which enables them to become a contributing citizen of the world.
4. **How do you think the School District could do better?** Develop a culture of excellence throughout the district.
5. **What, in your opinion, are the three greatest challenges facing the School District? What, if anything, do you plan to do about these challenges if you are elected?** 1. Having highly qualified teachers in every classroom. 2. Funding to keep salaries and wages competitive. 3. Having adequate facilities to accommodate our ever increasing student population. On the first two issues I would lobby the appropriate entities for help and on the last issue it boils down to good planning based upon projections.
6. **How well do you believe the School District does in addressing the effects of poverty on the learning environment?** The Pullman School District (PSD) does very well considering the resources we have. We provide nutrition, supplies, transportation and additional support as needed.
7. **Do you believe the School Board is sufficiently transparent in its operations? Why or why not?** Yes we are transparent. We obey the Open Public Meeting Act as required by the laws of the State of Washington. Most issues are thoroughly discussed at at least two meetings before we act on them. The meetings are broadcast and recorded so anyone can view them on the internet any time they wish. We also take public comments at every meeting.
8. **Rank the following education issues in the order of what you believe the importance should be in the School District, with 1 being the most important and 12 being the least important.**
 - 7. Increasing teacher salary
 - 8. Reducing bullying
 - 12. Promoting the use of technology in the classroom
 - 1. Balancing or maintaining the District's budget
 - 4. Closing achievement gaps between students of different racial/ethnic or economic backgrounds
 - 9. Reducing classroom size for all grades
 - 2. Preparing students for college
 - 3. Preparing students for post-graduation opportunities other than college
 - 11. Promoting healthy eating and exercise for students
 - 5. Improving relations with teachers
 - 6. Improving relations with parents
 - 10. Expanding class offerings

9. **What are your views on standardized tests?** The State mandates too many tests. The diagnostic tests are the most useful to our teachers as they can determine the needs of the students and the teachers try to accommodate those needs.
10. **What are your views on homework?** I believe a student should have a moderate amount of homework which enables the parents to more actively engage in their child's education.
11. **What should the role be of Pullman Education Foundation?** To supplement voids that evolve when basic education dollars cannot be used or are lacking.
12. **What role should the School Board have in addressing disputes between parents and school administration?** The Board should not be involved until an issue is appealed to the board. At that point the Board needs to determine if policy and procedure have been followed and make a decision in favor of the parents or the administrator. Sometimes we can find middle ground.
13. **How do you think the District should handle underperforming teachers?** The district should offer an improvement plan and maybe mentoring. If there is not improvement, then they will eventually be evaluated out.
14. **Should teachers receive merit pay? Why or why not?** Giving merit pay would be ideal if someone could develop a non-controversial system that was not terribly subjective.
15. **What, if anything, will you do to better coordinate the WSU-PSD schedules (i.e., different start times, different spring break times, etc.)?** In recent years the mandated State Testing schedule dictated that the PSD spring break could not coordinate with WSU spring break. If that changes, I would gladly reestablish coordinated spring breaks.
16. **If the School District had to take a 20% budget cut, how would you suggest allocating the cut?** I would love to say an across the board cut to everything and everybody but according to state law we can't cut salaries and wages. Therefore I would cut maintenance and operations as much as possible without letting facilities degrade. Next I would balance cutting extracurricular activities with a reduction in staffing.
17. **What are currently the three most important educational trends in the United States?** 1. Dual credit programs are up trending to meet the needs of students. 2. College and career plans starting in middle school. 3. The use of predictive analytics to individualize student success.
18. **What construction projects, if any, would you recommend the School District undertake in the next 5-10 years?** We are in the process of building the new Kamiak Elementary School and will need to expand Lincoln Middle School next to accommodate our growing student population.
19. **Would you support offering free lunches to all children in the district?** I would support free lunches to all children if it were a federal program paid for by federal funds. Otherwise it would take funds out of the classroom.
20. **If you could change one School Board policy, what would you change and why?** I would change the requirement to follow the Davis-Bacon Act. We could build school building for about one half of the current cost.