

MAINSTREAM COALITION QUESTIONNAIRE

Completed by Dr. Walt Chappell on June 16th, 2008

- 1) **Q: Do you oppose the expenditure of public tax dollars through vouchers, scholarships, tax credits or other means for non-public schools?**

A: Yes

- 2) **Q: Are you opposed to the teaching of biblical creation or intelligent design as an alternative to evolution in public school science classes?**

A: Yes

- 3) **Q: Do you support human sexuality education and HIV/AIDS education in public schools that is factual, age-appropriate and medically accurate?**

A: Yes

- 4) **Q: Do you oppose sex education classes that use an "abstinence only" curriculum?**

A: Yes

- 5) **Q: Do you support an opt-out option for sex education classes in public schools?**

A: No

- 6) **Q: Are you in favor of the current in-state tuition policy for the high school graduates who are in families of undocumented immigrants?**

A: I support the current Regents policy that any student from another State or Nation going to a Kansas Post-Secondary school pays Out-Of-State tuition. There should not be an exception for "undocumented immigrants" since they too are foreign students just like thousands of other college students from different nations attending Kansas colleges and universities.

- 7) **Q: There is a statute allowing for a “moment of silence” in Kansas public schools. Do you oppose adding an organized, voiced prayer in Kansas schools?**

A: Each student and teacher should be allowed to pray silently to God as they have been taught by their own religion. Since there are many religions and denominations in Kansas, it is unconstitutional to have all the people in each public school forced to listen to a prayer from only one of these diverse religions.

- 8) **Q: Although it does not fall under the authority of the State Board of Education, would you support a tax increase for public schools?**

A: At least \$350 million dollars per year can be saved through more cost effective use of existing instructional resources. A tax increase is the very last option to consider by the State Legislature or Local School Boards AFTER all efforts to control and reduce costs have been implemented.

- 9) **Q: Why are you running for the Kansas State Board of Education?**

A: Public education in Kansas is at a crossroads. Two thirds of our State budget is spent each year to educate our kids and costs continue to rise. Yet, in some high schools, 40% of the students never graduate. In the next 5 years, 35% of our teachers will retire. We are also not retaining new teachers, so there is already a major shortage of people to teach math, science and technology.

K-12 schools in Kansas need to prepare students to compete in a global economy—not just prepare for college. This means that each student—regardless of where they live in our State—has an equal educational opportunity to learn employable skills and knowledge so they can earn a living wage after graduation from high school.

I am willing to share my over 30 years of management, public administration, education and international experience to help Kansas K-12 students and teachers be the best that they can be.

- 10) **Q: What qualifications and experience do you have that will contribute to your success on the State Board of Education?**

A: First of all, I am a compassionate leader who looks for solutions to major problems by challenging assumptions and building coalitions. I am balanced;

listen to others and am willing to look for new options to deal with the challenges we face.

I am offering my over 30 years of experience in business management, manufacturing, public administration, agriculture and education to help implement policies which reduce public school costs, improve graduation rates, increase teacher recruitment and retention, improve the use of existing resources and make sure that every student learns the knowledge and skills necessary to support themselves financially and raise loving families. To learn more about my qualifications, please read the Public Service page on my campaign website at <http://www.chappell4ksboe.com>

11)Q: What do you see as the 3 most critical issues facing Kansas today?

A: Three of the most critical issues facing Kansas K-12 schools are:

- 1) Hiring and retaining qualified teachers in each classroom.
- 2) Eliminating duplicate and excessive administrative and operational costs so more funds actually reach the classroom without raising taxes.
- 3) Providing technical and career education so each student graduates with employable skills.

12)Q: What do you see as the role of the State Board of Education in addressing these issues?

A: 1) The State Board of Education needs to adopt policies which allow people with subject matter knowledge and skills to teach K-12 students, just as we do for Kansas Community Colleges and Universities.

2) To hold down costs of education, the State Board needs to set criteria for the minimum size of a school district so that duplicated administrative, transportation and operating expenses are reduced or eliminated. This one decision can save the taxpayers of Kansas \$350 million dollars per year to put back into classrooms.

3) The State Board of Education needs to set curriculum standards and guidelines so that students can graduate from high school with technical and career education credits as well as college bound course credits.

13) Q: How would you propose to address them?

A: See the answer to the previous question.

14) Q. What do you think are the essential qualifications for a leader for the Department of Education?

A. A Kansas Board of Education member should have first hand experience of what goes on in K-12 classrooms as a teacher and administrator. Board members should also have experience in public administration, school finance, curriculum development, teacher training and assessment plus an understanding of the legislative process. In addition, they should have business management experience to understand the real world needs of employers and how well our graduates are prepared to complete in the global economy.

I personally have all of these qualifications. After over 30 years of experience, I am ready to serve the people of Kansas by helping to provide the policies and resources necessary so our K-12 students and teachers can be as successful as possible.