

Flores

MTI VOTERS 2012 School Board Election Questionnaire

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. *Please deliver your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, January 5, 2012.*

General:

1. If the School Board finds it necessary to change school boundaries due to enrollment, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgement?

From a parent's perspective, outlining and informing new residents that they are in areas that could be rezoned could prevent this issue. Getting ahead of the problem could resolve it. Then creating a volunteer option, where parents make the choice to move their child. With out projections I can't go into this issue any further currently.

2. If the School Board finds it necessary to close a school/schools due to economic reasons, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgement?

School Closings might be a necessary evil due to the lack of funding. First I aim at preventing closings by getting more funding to the schools. We need to think ahead and look at alternative ways to bring in revenue. Budget cuts can't be the only answer. After that I would have to look at the numbers (students, teacher, staff, etc. available) and performance of the school. Also, the age of the building itself, things like resources (chalks, desks, CPUs, etc.) to up keep cost.

3. If the School Board finds it necessary, due to the State-imposed revenue controls, to make further budget cuts to the 2012-13 budget, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgement?

Again numbers and effectiveness of the targeted cut.

4. Identify specific MMSD programs and/or policies which you believe should to be modified, re-prioritized, or eliminated, and explain why.

Charter schools that have proven to draw in residency income, due to their educational success, should be expanded to the demand they create. Programs that have failed should be disposed of. We need to evolve, as our community demands it. We need to stay competitive to bring in revenue to our system. Being dynamic and re assessing our plans is the key. Currently I do not have all the figures from Superintendent Nerad I have made arrangements to meet with him then I will delve into specific issues and possible solutions.

5. What should the District do to reduce violence/assure that proper discipline and safety (of the learning and working environment) is maintained in our schools?

Greater number of teacher to student ratio can help. Raising attention to students with a history of violence and having programs that recondition the student can help. Over the years I've seen an increase of awareness to this issue and I believe we are moving forward. Also, more community involvement will help eradicate violence.

6. Do you agree that the health insurance provided to District employees should be mutually selected through collective bargaining?

Yes

7. Explain your concerns/proposed solutions relative to the District's efforts to reduce the "achievement gap".

I agree that there is a problem "The achievement gap" should not exist. A good education should prevail over **gender, race, religion, sexual identity or socioeconomic status**. A great educator can accommodate to the student and find the key to educating that student, but I believe we as a community can reinforce that education.

8. Should planning time for teachers be increased? If yes, how could this be accomplished?

Teachers should be allowed to have what they need to provide a good education. If that includes more planning time then we should help. I understand lesson plans require time to be modified to better suit the student. Also, other things like continuing education should be encouraged. More teacher, teacher assistants or new time management techniques could help. I am open to exploring options.

9. Given that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards rarely supports the interests of the Madison Metropolitan School District, do you support the District withdrawing from the WASB? Please explain your rationale.

Currently, I do not have enough information on WASB. I have noted some current school board member see a benefit in being part of the WASB.

10. From what sources do you believe that public schools should be funded?
a. Do you support further increasing student fees?

No

11. Do you support the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools' (WAES) initiative to raise sales tax by 1% to help fund schools?

We pay taxes for the benefit of our community. Services like public schools, police, fire, sanitations and others are our duty as taxpayer as members of a society. Maybe we need to revamp the tax formula.

No, I do not support any more increases during this economy and current unemployment rates.

I'm undecided I believe the formula needs to be re calculated. There is waste in other areas and education falls last quite often. Getting into raising taxes before us as whole, the community, needs to be addressed. This goes beyond the BOE and MMSD.

12. Do you support class sizes of 15 or less for all primary grades?

YES!

13. Do you support:

a. The use of public funds (vouchers) to enable parents to pay tuition with tax payers' money for religious and private schools?

NO

b. The expansion of Charter schools within the Madison Metropolitan School District?

YES

c. The Urban League's proposed "Madison Preparatory Academy" as a charter school which would *not* be an instrumentality of the District?

NO

14) Do you agree that the work of teachers, i.e. work of those in MTI's teacher bargaining unit, should *not* be performed by others (sub-contracted)?

Yes

15) List MMSD staff and Board member(s) from whom you do or would seek advice.

The community, Prior and Current BOE members (Carol Carstensen, Johnny Winston, Juan Lopez) Teachers, Educators, etc.

16) Is your candidacy being promoted by any organization?

No

17) Have you ever been employed as a teacher? If yes, please describe why you left the teaching profession.

No, not as a Madison teacher but an instructor for CPR with the UW.

18) Do you support the inclusion model for including Title 1, EEN and ESL students in the regular education classroom? Why/why not?

Yes, it opens the educational doors.

19) What grouping practices do you advocate for talented and gifted (TAG) students?

I'd like to do more research on that topic.

20) Aside from limitations from lack of adequate financial resources, what problems do you feel exist in meeting TAG students' needs at present, and how would you propose to solve these problems?

Again I'd like to do more research on this topic.

21) The Board of Education has moved from the development of policy to becoming involved in implementation of policy; i.e. matters usually reserved to administration. Some examples are when it:

a. Decided to hear parents' complaints about a teacher's tests and grading.

b. Decided to modify the administration's decision about how a State Statute should be implemented.

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administrators the implementation of policy, which the Board has created?

YES

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administrators the implementation of State Statutes?

YES

Do you support the Board exploring further means to make their meetings more efficient?

YES

Do you support a merit pay scheme being added to the Collective Bargaining Agreement?

Undecided

If yes, based on which performance indicators?

22) Do/did/will your children attend private or parochial schools during their K-12 years? If no, and if you have children, what schools have/will they attend(ed)?

No, they attend public school, Nuestro Mundo charter in Frank Allis and Sennett.

23) Given Act 10's negative impact on Collective Bargaining Agreements, will you introduce and vote for a motion to adopt the Collective Bargaining Agreements negotiated between MTI and the Madison Metropolitan School District as MMSD policy?

Yes

24) Will you introduce and vote for a motion which would direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools and return full budgeting authority to the School Board?

Yes

25) Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to prohibit the privatization of public schools via the use of tuition tax credits (vouchers) to pay tuition with taxpayers' money to private or religious schools?

Yes

26) Will you introduce and vote for a motion to seek passage of legislation which will limit further expansion of District funded charter schools, which are *not* instrumentalities of the District?

Yes

27) Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will maintain or expand the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

Yes

28) Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation which will require full State funding of any State-mandated program?

Yes

29) Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation which will provide adequate State funding of public education?

Yes

30) Do you support a specific school finance reform plan (e.g., School Finance Network (SFN), Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES), Andrews/Matthews Plan)? Why/why not?

Undecided

31) Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of a repeal of Act 10 and full restoration of education employees' collective bargaining rights?

YES!

32) Are you, or any of your campaign committee members, active in or supportive (past or present) of the "Get Real", "ACE", "Vote No for Change" or similar organizations?

No

33) Name of Campaign Committee/Address/Phone #/Treasurer. List the members of your campaign committee.

Name Michael A. Flores
Address 5110 Stonehaven Dr. Madison WI, 53716

Treasurer Cory Roberts
Address 315 N. Few St. Madison WI, 53703

Date 1/5/2012

Candidate: Michael A. Flores