



# Candidate Conversations

A smorgasbord of questions, all geared toward building understanding and sharing insights with candidates

*[ Numbers for reference only ]*

## Questions for candidates...

1. Why are you interested in becoming part of this governance team?
2. What relationships/connections do you have with the school district?
3. What has your experience been like as an area volunteer?
4. What experience, assets or skills do you have which would benefit the 2009-11 governing team?
5. What personal strengths would you bring the governing team?
6. How would others describe your personal leadership style?
7. What experience do you have with team leadership of any kind?
8. How many board meetings have you attended in the last year and what were your observations?
9. What commitments will you bring to this governing team?
10. Which board policies are strong? Which need some review and work?
11. What are the most important responsibilities of the board?
12. How does a governance team best maximize its time?
13. What does it take for a governance team to be highly effective?
14. What team behaviors are crucial for highly effective work?
15. What commitments for effectiveness would you bring to the governing team?
16. What insights do you have about real or perceived conflicts of interest which are a normal part of the governance challenge in small communities?
17. What is your vision for the future of the district's learning efforts?
18. What are the primary issues facing the future of the district?
19. What top priorities should consume most of the board's time this year?
20. In your first year on the team, what would you do to learn about great governing for the sake of the kids?
21. What are your "best hopes" for this governing team whether you become a member or not?



22. What ideas do you have for the governing team's ongoing conversation about wise investments and cost containment?
23. How might the governing team become even more focused on the future?
24. During the past decade, what has changed in our education leadership environment?
25. How must governance change to align to the new expectations, mandates and challenges?
26. What habits of excellence are "wildly important" for the new era of local board leadership?
27. How will this governing team prove its worth in this era of accountability?
28. Name five key characteristics of a new era, cutting-edge governing effort in touch with "preparing our kindergartners for a world we can hardly imagine."
29. If the governance team is spending its time on what's wildly important, upon what will it be focusing its time, energy and resources?

30. What are your opinions about...the emerging financial crisis facing all of Colorado?...How the world has changed since you were in school?...State/federal mandates for ALL students proficient?...Emerging core focus for boards on student achievement?...Growing need to share resources and opportunities with neighboring districts?...Pressures on time, resources, and money?...The world of our current kindergartners at age 30?

**Veterans sharing with candidates...**

1. What surprised you most in your first year on the governance team?
2. What have you learned along the way? What have been your major discoveries? What does your wisdom collection include?
3. What is your best hope for our post-election governing team?
4. "To be the best board member I can be, I think I'm going to need..."
5. You're 90 years old and you're looking at a wall of plaques commemorating

the work of each board in the district's history. Each plaque has a team picture and an engraved brass plate that lists team accomplishments, what the team stood for... What does your governance team's brass plate declare?

6. What are the "wildly important" challenges for our governing team in the next year?
7. If your team were to help write "the book" on being an effective board team, what essentials would be included?
8. What could cause our board to not accomplish its mission? What could distract time and attention? What could cause the team to "derail."
9. To get better as a governing team, to be models of learning, we need to consider...
10. The core value of this governing team I most appreciate is...

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