

The Greens sent this questionnaire to all 10 candidates for the St. Louis School Board on January 26, 2007.

Questionnaire item	Arch-ibald	Haas	Har-ris	Jack-son D	Jack-son R	Mon-roe	Petty	Spray	St. Pi-erre	Wess-ling
1. Do you support charter schools?	--	don't oppose	Y	N	depends	--	maybe	N	N	N
2. Do you favor tax tuition credits for families who send their children to private schools?	--	N	Y	N	N	--	N	N	N	N
3. Should schools receiving tax support have the same accreditation requirements as public schools?	--	Y	Y	Y	Y	--	Y	Y	Y	Y
4. Was it a mistake for the School Board to outsource custodial work to Sodexo and food services to Aramark?	--	Y	N	Y	N	--	Y	Y	Y/N	Y
5. Should the State of Missouri take over or create a transition board for St. Louis Public Schools?	--	N	N	N	Y	--	N	N	N	N
6. Should the City of St. Louis declare a Lead Emergency?	--	Y	Y	Y	need info	--	Y	not sure	Y	Y
7. How many of your children attended or are currently attending St. Louis Public Schools?	--	1	1	2	4	--	0	no children	no children	2
8. How many School Board meetings did you attend during 2006?	--	several	4	5	all	--	6	0	2	2-3
9. Please grade:										
Diana Bourisaw	--	A	C	B	F	--	B	A	A	--
Robert Archibald	--	F	C	F	C	--	C	F	D	--
Peter Downs	--	A	C	B	D	--	B	A	B	--
Flint Fowler	--	C	C	C	C	--	B	A	A	--
Ronald Jackson	--	F	C	F	C	--	C	F	D	--
Donna Jones	--	A	C	B	D	--	B	A	B	--
Veronica O'Brien	--	F	F	F	C	--	C	F	F	--
William Purdy	--	A	C	B	D	--	C	A	B	--

R. Jackson: (1) It depends on circumstances, assumptions and situations. (6) Need more information about current situation. (7) Attended: 3/ currently attending: 1
 Spray (7): If I had children, they would attend a city school since I live in the city!
 St. Pierre: (4) YES for custodial NO for foodservice. (7) I have no children, but I have a niece and a nephew in the schools.

Questionnaire Item 10

Bill Haas: Student achievement, of course; my previous 8 years on the board are what best prepare me.

Paul Harris: Too small of a budget for a staff of 5,000 and not enough schools for the count of 30,000 students. I am willing to go to Jefferson City to sit in on a Board of Education Committee concerning the education budget of the state of Missouri. I have 30 years of experience of being a taxpayer.

David Jackson. One of the major issues confronting the SLPS is lack of cooperation and understanding among the Board members. This Board is dis-functional and so the entire system is dis-functional. With my candidacy to the Board I will work toward bringing cooperation and communication among every Board Member. Secondly, I believe we must work tirelessly toward full accreditation. If we concentrate on this, student achievement will improve, as well as, participation, graduation and attendance. If elected I will strive to bring better systems to the SLPS to achieve this agenda.

I believe my experience as a public school student, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and my experiences as a business owner and being an executive in various businesses, as well as being a member and/or participant with many public boards and organizations relating to social issues, has prepared and will assist me immensely with moving the SLPS toward its goal of full accreditation.

Ron Jackson. The primary issues facing the St. Louis Public Schools are:

- Low expectations for the children
- Lack of accountability
- Parochialism
- Failure to create broad collaborations with the community, its institutions and organizations.
- Acceptance of mediocrity
- The current board majority is beholden to the teachers union rather than to improving student achievement
- Fiscal problems
- Lack of vision
- Attachment to micromanagement rather than strategic planning
- Little understanding of the line between governance and administration
- Failure to provide the highest quality staff development for teachers

- Failure to follow up on curricular innovations
- Mediocre, untested leadership
- Board dysfunction

My background for being a board member is:

- Served on SLPS board for 4 years, 3 years as vice president
- Alumnus of the Broad School Board Training Institute
- Served on the St. Louis Career Education District Board for 3 years as secretary
- Served on the Cardinal Ritter College Prep High School Board for 3 years
- Served as a member of numerous community based organization boards, held various offices.
- Served on the New City School Board

Douglass Petty:

- A healthy school board
- Building deterioration
- Sound fiscal management
- Class size
- Competitive staff compensation
- Violence reduction
- Increase in MAP test scores
- Securing full accreditation
- Protecting the retirement fund
- Elevating staff morale
- Continued staff development training

The resolution of the above is to do an honest assessment of what is currently effective and continue. Discontinue the things that are not effective and examine best practices from other districts. Finally, provide the appropriate support for the superintendent.

My experience in interacting with surrounding districts, involvement in higher education, my being an organizational consultant, having quality mentors such as Dr. Henry Shannon and a personal C.P.A. with Fortune 500 experience, provides me with the necessary tools to be successful.

Jason Spray: Issues: Lack of a universal discipline code that everyone follows faithfully, a curriculum that works, meaningful professional development, top heavy administration, inadequate administration.

Resolutions: I would assist in designing a universal discipline code with zero tolerance and insure that everyone understands it and implements it to the fullest. I would work with the curriculum and instruction committee to find and implement an effective curriculum. I would work closely with the professional development committee to insure that

teachers are trained on best practices and effective professional development is provided. I would look at the board office administration and see what positions are not necessary and put that money elsewhere, to assist teachers in their instruction. I would look at principals' performances and evaluate their effectiveness in their role.

Experience: I am an educator. I worked for the St. Louis Public Schools for 8 years and am currently a teacher in the Normandy District. I have a masters degree in educational leadership with an emphasis in urban leadership. I am currently working on a second masters degree in curriculum, instruction and assessment. I have been fully trained in implementing "value-added" data to drive instruction.

Maurice St. Pierre: The teachers are forced to concentrate on quantity teaching rather than quality teaching, thereby failing to bring out the best in each individual student. They do this in facilities that are neglected and without proper supplies. Teachers must be given the tools AND SUPPORT necessary to pull out the best in each student and principals must be able to remedy students that, for a number of reasons, cannot or will not learn. Administration levels must be made more efficient. I have 20 plus years of management experience and fully understand that a board's duty is to set the vision and goals for the organization and then providing support to meet those goals, not to micromanage.

Katherine Wessling: The major issues are the financial crisis, the lack of accreditation, the poor transportation situation, and a general lack of expectation of excellence within some areas of the district. My approach to resolving each would be to first determine the essentials for running a district of this size, make sure those are met, and then seek community input, particularly the input of parents, in determining which non-essentials should be prioritized with remaining resources. I have spent the last 10 years as managing attorney with a local non-profit for domestic violence victims. While I admit I have not had the responsibility of such a large entity as the SLPS, I have risen to the challenge of making sure necessary work gets done when there is not enough money to go around. I believe my experience in the non-profit/public interest sector will serve me well.

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Questionnaire Sent to 10 Candidates

1. Do you support charter schools? _____
2. Do you favor tax tuition credits for families who send their children to private schools? _____
3. Should schools receiving tax support have the same accreditation requirements as public schools?

4. Was it a mistake for the Board to outsource custodial work to Sodexo and food services to Aramark?

5. Should the State of Missouri take over or create a transition board for St. Louis Public Schools?

6. Should the City of St. Louis declare a Lead Emergency that would require lead abatement of homes prior to a change of occupancy in neighborhoods with the highest rates of childhood lead poisoning?

7. How many of your children attended or are currently attending St. Louis Public Schools? _____
8. How many School Board meetings did you attend during 2006? _____
9. Please give a grade of "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" for the performance of the superintendent and each school board member:
Diana Bourisaw _____
Robert Archibald _____
Peter Downs _____
Flint Fowler _____
Ronald Jackson _____
Donna Jones _____
Veronica O'Brien _____
William Purdy _____
10. Could you explain, in 50 to 100 words, what you think are the major issues confronting St. Louis Public Schools, your approach to resolving them, and what experience you have that prepares you to provide oversight for a system with 30,000 students, 5,000 staff and a budget over \$400,000?