

## ABCPOA Candidate Questionnaire 2020

**Board of Education**

**District 4:**

**Steven Barger**

Please complete the following questionnaire and return it not later than September 25, 2020

**Please limit responses to 200 words**

### Question 1.

Please define the one clear change that you wish to accomplish and how you intend to build support for this change during your tenure in office if elected”?

### Response 1.

One of the biggest challenges facing Brunswick County Schools is teacher recruitment and retention. Maintaining our teaching staff especially our highest performers must be an immediate priority. Secondly, I would like the Board of Education to explore a hybrid form of performance bonuses for staff who grow our students at high levels.

### Question 2.

Brunswick County public schools rank in the bottom 50 percentile of districts in NC in both math and reading proficiency. Our spending per student and student/teacher ratios are higher than the average in N.C. What specific steps do you recommend improving our testing results?

### Response 2.

Teacher retention and recruitment again plays into this as it did the previous question. Constantly having to replace math and science teachers as well as other hard to find subject instructors proves to be negatively affecting our students. I will commit to working with our board as well as other boards to find solutions to improve not only test scores but student achievement.

### Question3

The only vocational school in our area is in Castle-Hayne and serves only grade 9. Do you believe that we should have expanded vocational opportunities? If so, do we need a more local facility and how would it be funded?

### Response 3.

The C.O.A.S.T. has been a welcomed addition to our county. New programs are starting this year in the high school vocational tech building right here in Brunswick County. I look to expand this program so we can show success is not just made with degrees and debt, but skills that our county and state desperately need.

Question 4.

Even with the recent salary increases, the N.C. teachers' salary averages are still in the bottom 50 percentile compared with the national average. Further, Horry County has a much more attractive salary structure than Brunswick County. What additional incentives can we offer to attract and retain the best teachers?

Response 4

Most of the funding for teacher positions comes from the state legislature. We can continue to increase supplements, but I would like to see performance increases as part of this. I plan to negotiate and research ways to improve the suppliant for our highest performing teachers.

Question 5

Student success is linked to positive expectations by students, parents, educational professionals, and a vision for a better future. How would you, as a member of the Board of Education build such values in the decisions that you make?

Response 5.

All school employees need to feel valued and part of the educational team. 'Improving environments at the school is part of the solution. The second part of the solution is the school system taking interest in families and helping to shape the whole child not just the child as a student.

Please save as a pdf. File and return to: [genevasile708@gmail.com](mailto:genevasile708@gmail.com)

Thank you for participating in the ABCPOA candidate questionnaire.