

02/16/2023 Freedom Park Ridge

1. What are your views on the [Sex Ed Curriculum and IL Public Act 102-0522](#)?

Although it's necessary for students to learn about sex ed, the district should continue to opt out (to the extent that we're still able to do so). The standards about learning how to communicate personal boundaries; identify trusted adults; and identify consent are valuable. However, a lot of the curriculum could be seen as too much, too soon—especially for kindergarten through fifth grade. Illinois became the first state to adopt the updated national standards. School districts that require comprehensive sexual health education will be required to provide instruction that includes all of the standards that were created by the Future of Sex Education (FoSE), a project created by Advocates for Youth, Answer, and SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change. According to SIECUS's November 12, 2019 press release, it is "pushing the sex education conversation beyond the benefits it can have on an individual's sexual health," and it seeks "to explore the large-scale culture shift that sex education has the power to create in this country." Rather, the district's primary focus should be on the education and safety of our students.

2. How would you have handled COVID mitigations (masking, vaccination, in person instruction) if you had been on the previous school board? If you are a current board member, any acknowledgment of fault or would you chart the same course knowing what you now know?

We need to do everything possible to keep the kids in school in a normal learning environment. Teachers, staff, and students had legitimate concerns, and it was important to consider the interests of all parties. As a board member, I took an oath to discharge my duties "in accordance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois, to the best of my ability." A lot of people had strong views for and against masking, and I voted to keep the mandate when we were required to do so under Illinois law. However, when the bipartisan Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) of the Illinois General Assembly suspended the emergency mask rules, I supported the immediate lifting of the mandate.

3. The latest D64 budget was unbalanced. Do you believe D64 should have a balanced budget and how would you achieve that?

Yes – the district should have a balanced budget, which could be achieved with better planning and oversight. Although I was not in favor of charging tuition for full day kindergarten, I still voted **in January** to approve the tuition recommended by the administration to help the district’s goal of balancing the next budget. We have to examine possible reductions of expenditures but also make sure the budget aligns with our educational mission (and that we’re following state and federal law).

4. There was controversy over the [DELT committee and the hiring of consultant Ivette Dubiel](#). What were your thoughts on her hiring and the surrounding controversy?

To the extent that the administration needed an outside consultant to execute the goal in the strategic plan to “Enhance Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Access,” then it should have chosen one who was acceptable to the community. I’m on the DELT committee and was informed in April 2021 that “We will collaborate with Dr. Ivette Dubiel, Chief Equity Officer of Systemic Educational Equity.”

During the course of the meetings, the committee members had lively discussions about the various homework assignments, information received, and tasks for completion. The committee was comprised of people with varying experiences and viewpoints. There were many instances when group members did not agree with each other or with Dr. Dubiel’s views, and such disagreements weren’t stifled.

In response to public inquiries, the administration confirmed that CRT was not being taught in the district and that Dr. Dubiel was not a CRT consultant. The DELT committee did not discuss cancelling or rescheduling any events. Rather, it discussed making events more inclusive and broadening them so that no groups were left out. Thus, if any progress with the strategic plan is going to be hindered because of who the consultant was, then the district could proceed without one, if possible.

5. Do you believe the parent/guardian or the superintendent is better positioned to make decisions regarding the wellbeing of their child's education.

Parents have primary responsibility for their children’s wellbeing and education. They should have a voice at all levels.