

A TRANSPARENT ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Focus on Education A2

We promised a transparent, robust process that gives AAPS voters the tools to judge candidates on what matters: **FOCUSING ON EDUCATION**. AAPS sits at a crossroads. We need to elect people who can get it back on track, educationally and financially.

EDUCATION

Before you rely on any endorsement, you should ask FIVE important questions. Here are our answers.

To see how the Washtenaw Dems and Teachers' Union's endorsements stand up to these **FIVE** questions, flip the page.

1 WHO decided?

The **Executive Board**, with input and recommendations from the **Endorsement Committee**.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Heather Esper, Karen Biddle Andres, Margaret Schreiber, Sharon Sorkin
Bios on our website

ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE

Bob Rorke, Stephen Chang, Taryn Gal, Kate Curry (partial participation)

2 HOW MANY decided?

Six AAPS community members: parents of current and former students at Bach, Wines, Forsythe, Skyline, Slauson and Pioneer; AAPS alumni; and a former Board of Education member.

3 WHAT factors did they consider?

First cut: anyone who declined or didn't respond was not eligible. **Then we weighed:**

Responsible Governance & Financial Stewardship

Student Learning & Classroom Focus

Leadership, Judgment & Collaboration, Planning & Innovation

Money & Influence

Political Ties & Ambitions

Readiness for the Job

Priorities

4 WHAT questions did they ask?

A **pre-interview questionnaire** plus **live interviews** with the same questions for every candidate, in four areas:

Fiduciary duty

Academic health

Soft skills

Looking to the future

Questions were **vetted by education policy experts** first. **Full questions and interview recordings are public.**

5 HOW did they decide?

1 Score every answer 1-4, with written comments

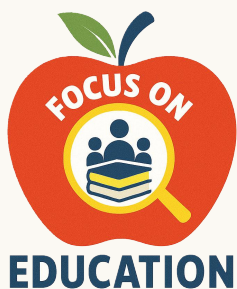
2 Recommend whether to endorse

3 Discuss as a group

4 Board decides, with Committee advice

Excellent schools start with honest conversations.

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SAME FIVE QUESTIONS. COMPARE BEFORE YOU VOTE.

Three Endorsements, Side by Side

Question	FoEA2 Focus on Education A2	WCDP Washtenaw County Democratic Party	AAEA Ann Arbor Education Assoc.
 WHO decides?	Parent-led Executive Board , advised by a committee of AAPS community members.	Anyone who joined by July 16 , registered by Aug 13 and showed up in person Aug 15 . No need to live in Ann Arbor or AAPS. Membership does not appear to require being a consistent Democratic voter.	Undisclosed committee of the AAEA political action committee.
 HOW MANY decide?	6 AAPS community members.	Everyone at the convention who cast a ballot.	Undisclosed.
 WHAT factors?	Eight published priorities , including academics, independence, data and grassroots funding.	None required. Each attendee decides based on personal preference.	Undisclosed.
 WHAT questions?	Written questionnaire + live interview. Same questions for all, vetted by experts, public .	Candidate questionnaires and a public forum , both online.	Undisclosed.
 HOW decided?	Every answer scored 1–4 with written comments . Discussion, then Board decision.	Paper ballot at the very end of the meeting. Up to 4 picks (4-year seats) and 1 (2-year seat).	Undisclosed.
 Can you see how it works?	Yes. Process, questions, recordings and bios are published.	Partly. Questions and forum are public; how attendees chose is not.	No. Nothing is disclosed.

Worth noting: WCDP holds the Board of Education vote at the very end of its convention. We were forwarded an email in which the WCDP Chair said this is because attendees generally “don’t care about the BOE election.”

Read our letter to the WCDP. WCDP followed up inviting a collaborative conversation about improving the endorsement process, which we will conduct after this year’s election season.

Ask the five questions. Then vote informed.

Source for WCDP information: <https://www.washtenawdems.org/2026-endorsement-questionnaire-responses-non-partisan/>

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