

**Right to Life
Political Action Committee
Questions for School Board Candidates**

1. *Do you support school-based clinics being placed in public schools?*

Yes. I will expect to see clearly defined responsibilities and authority in clinic proposals before Board approval.

2. *If your answer is "yes" to questions 1, should these clinics be allowed to make referrals for abortion?*

Undecided. I am on record in support of "clustering" community services at or near schools to address underlying social and economic causes of drop-outs. If such clusters were to include a mix of medical and counseling services related to pregnancy, I would support a ban on protest demonstrations of any sort.

3. *If your answer is "yes" to questions 2, should parents of underage minors be notified of this referral?*

Undecided. Our society has already recognized that there are limitations to parental rights. For example, clitoridectomy for religious reasons is banned, and parents are not allowed to sacrifice children for whatever reason. On the other hand, surgical procedures as simple as "plastic surgery" or breast reduction often require parents' approval. I will not support the Board resolving these inconsistencies. Instead, public resolution is required so that the Board can focus on developing educational policies that support the community's values, goals, and expectations.

4. *Should there be sex education in the schools?*

Unequivocally, **yes**.

5. *If your answer is "yes" to question 4, should the education be that of (a) abstinence only program, (b) contraception education only, or (c) a combination of abstinence and contraceptive education?*

A combination of abstinence and contraceptive education.

6. *Do you support allowing Planned Parenthood, Inc. to make presentations to (a) middle schools and (b) high schools?*

My answer to both questions 6 and 7 is the same: "undecided" for presentations to middle schools; a qualified "yes" to *exploring* how such presentations might be feasible in high schools and still pass legal review for constitutionality. Before I would even *consider* such a discussion, both parties would have to present a unified plan to the Board for how

this might be accomplished. The key to my support would be concrete measures to ensure that all secular and religious view points are afforded equal dignity and respect without coercion. If Christian and *non-Christian* religious denominations cannot work with secular organizations to present such a plan, neither should approach the Board with a proposal.

7. *Do you support allowing speakers from the Right to Life Committee to make presentations to (a) middle schools and (b) high schools?*

My answer to both questions 6 and 7 is the same: "undecided" for presentations to middle schools; a qualified "yes" to *exploring* how such presentations might be feasible in high schools and still pass legal review for constitutionality. Before I would even *consider* such a discussion, both parties would have to present a unified plan to the Board for how this might be accomplished. The key to my support would be concrete measures to ensure that all secular and religious view points are afforded equal dignity and respect without coercion. If Christian and *non-Christian* religious denominations cannot work with secular organizations to present such a plan, neither should approach the Board with a proposal.

8. *Will you support the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce in its goal to implement their education plan?*

A qualified "no" until there is greater public dialogue about the plan, its conclusions, and the implications. My concerns about the plan are on record in my responses to other candidate surveys; you can read them at www.usa-sw.com/education. My primary concerns are that it appears to be focused too narrowly on the short-term goal of workforce development (rather than education for successful, productive citizenship) and that it did not adequately research and document the many innovations already in place throughout APS. In short, flawed research equals flawed conclusions and lack of widespread public support.

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