

Valparaiso School Board-Submitted Questions

1. What's the role of a school board member?
2. What is the goal of a public education system? As a board member, how do you see yourself advancing those goals?
3. What is the best way to evaluate our schools?
4. In what ways do you ensure that your personal objectives and priorities are aligned with the established goals and strategic vision of the VCS school board and its superintendent?
5. Serving on the school board comes with a learning curve—how do you plan to get up to speed and what resources will you use? How do you approach learning and making informed decisions when you're unfamiliar with a topic - whether it's school funding, facilities planning, or curriculum review? And what resources would you use?
6. What is your understanding of how public schools in Indiana are funded, and how recent legislative changes have impacted that?
7. In the school year 2024-2025, the Valparaiso Community Schools lost just over \$3M dollars to the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program. Since the 2017-2018 school year, the total lost from our district's share of the basic grant has been close to \$14M dollars. Describe your position on public funding for charter and voucher schools. Data source: Dr. Phil Downs, "Voucher Impact," 2017 to 2024, <https://drphildowns.com/>
8. According to the state DOE's annual school transfer report, VCS is losing students and with it public education funding. If appointed, would you favor an independent inquiry into both why VCS is losing students and ways in which to reverse that loss?
9. Given the legislature's decision to cut funding resulting in the loss of approximately \$2,000,000 a year over the next 3 years to VCS, would you favor reducing administration size before any cuts were made to faculty and staff throughout the system?

10. The board's actions in the next four years will affect whether the school corporation mounts a new referendum on Nov. 5, 2030, against shortfalls in state education funding. What actions will you initiate to ensure the district lives within its state-granted budgets?
11. What are your thoughts about a Valparaiso Community Schools Board Member sending their children to a private or charter school?
12. Please share your approach to working with a superintendent—particularly how you'd maintain oversight while also giving them the space and trust to lead effectively?
13. How do you define transparency in public service?
14. Does the school district do a sufficient job of informing Valparaiso residents of the news and happenings in the schools? As an individual board member, what will you do to ensure the administration communicates well and fully?
15. What role do you believe public input should play in board decision-making, and how would you incorporate community voices while still upholding board responsibilities?
16. How do you maintain objectivity and public trust when making decisions that may involve people you know or have worked with personally?
17. An acquaintance approaches you with a complaint about a teacher in the corporation. What do you do?
18. What are the biggest challenges facing the Valparaiso Community Schools?
19. What books, articles, or studies about education have you read in the past few years? Describe an insight you took away from your reading.
20. What is your primary goal in wanting to join the school board and what strengths do you think you'll bring to the board?