Eagle Forum of Alabama

2018 School Board Candidate Questionnaire

*Thank you for offering yourself for public service through elected office. Since only an informed electorate can make sound decisions, we ask you to state your positions so that we can distribute them to your potential constituents. Please indicate your position with an* ***A (Agree)*** *or* ***D (Disagree****) to the left of each question and sign below. If you wish to clarify or expand on any question, please do so with an attachment. Candidates must answer every question to complete the questionnaire.*

Candidate Name \_\_Sybil Little\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Candidate for \_\_State Board Department of Education District 2

**GENERAL**  Please provide a short statement of your basic philosophy regarding the purpose of education.

\_The general purpose of education should be a stepping stone for our children to use for their ability to support themselves and prospective children they may way in their future. The basic skills of English, Writing, Math and Reading should be a stepping stone to be used in whatever field of work is chosen. Science, Technology, Art, Mathematics and Computers should be introduced for basic knowledge and in-depth knowledge should it be wanted. The United Kingdom has brought about technology in Raspberry Pi to make it cheap and effective.

ACADEMICS

**D** 1. Do you believe schools and teachers should give primary emphasis to academic foundations (e.g. reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic) and avoid social and emotional learning?

Social and Emotional Learning can be used to teach all subjects as other schools have proven with the pod style of classroom teaching. https://ctl.yale.edu/print/4301

**A** 2. Do you support the use of intensive, systematic phonics to teach first-grade children how to read by the

end of first grade?

 ABeka is used by private schools and homeschoolers https://www.abeka.com/Resources/Articles/WhyNotTeachIntensivePhonics.aspx

**\_D\_\_\_\_**3. Do you support local control of education with accountability through the local school board, rather

than federal control exercised through federal and state bureaucracies and business partnerships?

The State and Local School Boards should work together not apart. The Federal Government has grants which would be beneficial to help the school systems as a whole. The current structure brings about a system with more technology base in some places and weak systems in other places. An accountability should accounted for which leads to one standard for showing the educational greatness of the students. A State Standard and Federal Standard does address students fairly among their peers.

**D**  4. Do you reject national high-stakes testing and imposition of national standards?

Testing should be conducted among students to show where the students are in the learning process. A student however SHOULD NOT BE TAUGHT THE TEST.

**A**  5. Given the fact that since the implementation of Common Core, student academic achievement scores in

2015 fell nationwide, but Alabama’s scores plummeted from 26th among the states and rising to dead

last, do you support replacement of the low trajectory Common Core State Standards Initiative

(renamed Alabama College and Career Ready Standards) with proven best pre-common core standards

 as the framework?

Common Core was a social experiment which failed our children miserably and should never have been introduced into our education system. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/what-common-core-won\_us\_5a5bb57ee4b0a233482e0ca4

**D**  6. Do you believe the purpose of teaching should be to equip students with a background knowledge of

facts and thus a storehouse of information and understanding before they are expected to engage in the

 scientific reasoning or critical thinking that we want for all students?

Scientific Reasoning and Critical Thinking can be addressed along with background knowledge to teach students every day. It does not have to be one or the other.

**A** 7. Do you reject classroom instruction that offers a politically motivated and historically inaccurate view of America, limited constitutional government, or private enterprise?

My children use old schoolbooks in order to be taught history. My Son and Daughter have been to the Alabama Department of Archives and History reading the plaques throughout several times and incorporating what they have read in books from the late 1800s and early 1900s. The kids have left rooms in order to not disrespect teachers who did not read the plaques or history books giving their students bad information. My 13 year old daughter stated the teacher should really read the plaque right in front of her. http://www.archives.alabama.gov/

**A**  8. Do you support elementary students learning history through stories of great events and heroes?

History should be taught carefully so not to confuse children. My son and one of his friends were taught about Martin Luther King so the first thought these young 7 years olds thought was they couldn’t be friends. I had to sit down and talk to them about it. We can teach history to all our children just carefully with consideration and thought.

**B** 9. Do you support for Grades K-3

1. “Progressive” curriculum that uses sociological and progressive economic thought to groom children for participation in the collective like teaching about the job of health inspectors OR
2. Traditional curriculum with stories about pioneers, explorers, Native American history and culture, events in American history that provide role models and builds character and individualism

**\_A\_\_\_**10. Do you support the teaching of abstinence as the most empowering choice for unmarried teenagers and as the only truly effective way to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases?

I have teenagers, a son and daughter. I have taught both don’t do something you can afford. I talk with my kids every day about things I view of importance for the day.

**A**  11. Do you support correcting fallacious or biased material in textbooks with supplemental online material or textbook inserts such as the one in the science textbooks that encourages debate about controversial theories such as macro-evolution or global warming?

\_\_\_\_\_12. Should junior high and high school English classes study novels that enable them to confront the timeless struggle between good and evil through classical literature or should they be required to read current novels, many of which are developmentally inappropriate, encourage sexual abuse and assault, and contain pornographic scenes?

Proper Literature should be taught to our children. Dual Enrollment should be offered.

# GENERAL POLICY

**D** 13. Given that (1) Finland, rated the top education system in the world, does not start compulsory school

attendance until age seven and that (2) research shows Head Start actually depresses academic readiness

for some children while any advantage from Head Start is diminished by Grade Three, would you discourage increased funding and attendance for comprehensive Pre-kindergarten in Alabama?

The Pre-K program offers a means for children to start learning how to socially interact with their peers. The Pre-K program should be expanded not diminished. A Pre-K teacher reading to their class every day, introducing letters and numbers is a good thing. The question should be asked do all parents read to their babies? The answer is no the Pre-K teachers are required to read to their students daily to include sharing books.

**A** 14. Do you support using recommendations from regional workforce development councils to determine education opportunities for public school students?

We need more programs to teach our students in high school skills to get a job when they graduate. Programs for the students to go to Technical/Vocation School should be expanded to give a means to all high school students. Which will lead to having the ability to get more employers in technical fields.

**A** 15. Do you believe Alabama should increase the number of Career Coaches within schools to insure schools are responsive to local employers and to meet the employment needs of business and industry?

**A**  16. Do you oppose tracking students and directing them into specific career paths instead of giving them information to aid them in making their own career choices?

**A** 17. Do you support the collection and maintenance of data including student health, performance, attitudes, behavior, and family on the State Longitudinal Data System or any similar system?

**A** 18. Do you reject governmental efforts to regulate and/or control non-public schools and home schools or force such schools to operate using the same state curriculum standards and assessments?

Homeschool families have social groups where they ask and research the curriculum they use based on the needs of their families. ABeka is a popular curriculum used by Homeschoolers and Private Schools which has led to students being prepared for adult life skills and a high ability of being prepared for college. Homeschool families can take one part of a curriculum they like to use for certain subjects while using a different curriculum for other subjects.

**D** 19. Do you support an equity funding plan to make funding for all Alabama school systems the same that would take locally generated funds from one district to give to other districts?

When one county adds to their tax base to support the school system while another county does not it is unfair to take from the county which raised their taxes to give to the county which did not.

**A** 20. Do you support the use of students' test scores based on student growth to determine a teacher's job performance and potential merit raise?

The teacher should not teach the test, however give their students the skills to pass a test.

**A** 21. Do you support keeping an elected school board and the right of the school board to pick the State Superintendent of Education?

# PARENTS’ RIGHTS

**A**  22. Do you believe in the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children?

**A** 23. Do you support a school board policy allowing parents the right to inspect and review instructional materials and methods?

**A** 24. Do you believe parental consent should be required prior to giving information and care to students regarding sexuality and reproductive health?

**D** 25. Do you oppose the establishment of school-based health clinics, which may operate without parental consent or knowledge to perform examinations, provide immunizations and medications, and dispense birth control devices and abortion referrals?

I do not oppose this the reason for this is due to HIPAA Standards parents are in the dark no matter where their child goes to after the age of 13 years old. My son and now my daughter has to request my presence.

**A** 26. Do you support a school board policy forbidding psychological evaluations, testing, treatment, or physical examinations of students without prior written parental consent?

**A**  27. Do you believe the topics of homosexuality and alternative lifestyles should be excluded from the classroom and left for parents to address with their children? Yes I do

**A** 28. Do you support the right of parents to homeschool their children? Yes I do

**A**  29. Do you oppose requiring students to answer nosy questionnaires about sex, gun ownership, drugs, suicide, and family behavior without parental consent? I do oppose students being asked.

***PLEASE RETURN BY March 20th to: Eagle Forum of Alabama, 4200 Stone River Circle, Birmingham, AL 35213. For clarification or questions, call 205-879-7096. You may also e-mail back the questionnaire to deborah@alabamaeagle.org.***

***Candidate Signature Sybil Little Date 12 March 2018***