

1. What do you think makes you the best qualified candidate for this position? (300 characters max)
 - *I am a father of three young students with a vested interest in the long-term success of DPS. I am the best candidate because of my proven leadership, over the last 4 years, in improving the lives of our students, and staff. I will continue to make DPS the foundation of the success of Durham.*
2. What are the pros and cons of traditional public schools and charter schools? (500 characters max)
 - *Public schools are the foundation of any society. The success of the public school system determines the outlook of that community. Public schools provide a diverse environment that reflects the real-world for students.*
 - *Charter schools are a choice where parents are looking for certain environments to educate their children. This is an intimate and difficult choice for parents. The choice for charter comes from a desire to have children educated in a pre-determined environment.*
3. What policies would you support to mitigate a potential shooting or threats to student safety at schools in your district? (500 characters max)
 - *As a father, I think about the safety of my children, as a board member, I think about the safety of the 34,000 DPS students. We as a district must prioritize in securing our schools without making the children feel as though they are in a prison. In the bond of 2016, Durham voted to allow DPS to put in foyers in the entrance of each building to force visitors to access only the office. This will prevent unauthorized visitors from access.*
4. What steps will you take to ensure that every child receives a high-quality education? (500 characters max)
 - *DPS is rich in resources; however, the balance of those resources will need to be adjusted. One of my priorities is the creation of a true equity calculator to balance the need of schools within our budget. This will allow schools with more need to be provided with more resources, both financially and physically. This will allow us to balance the higher needs of our schools with higher poverty populations. Every child deserves a high-quality education, this equitable balance will provide it.*
5. What policies will you implement to address the disproportionate number of African American students who receive out of school suspensions? (500 characters max)
 - *Change the way we handle alternative programs. DPS should be doing more to find the root of the problems by working 1 on1 with the students. We should compel flexibility from the district and counselors to find something that works for an individual student, and work to connect the students with programs tailored for them. This would be the beginning of a fully restorative justice program for long-term suspended students. It is important to connect with students to find their motivations.*
6. What are your ideas on retaining highly qualified teachers with a proven track record in lower performing schools? (500 characters max)
 - *I have been working on a project we are calling Teacher Housing. This is an apartment complex with an initial focus on providing low-cost housing to new teachers.*
 - *We need to be the number one district in North Carolina to support our teachers in professional development and other types of supports, allowing them to focus on teachers.*
 - *Focus recruitment on teachers who desire to be in an urban district like DPS by seeking out candidates who want to help students with our demographics.*