

NASB Legislative Candidate Questionnaire 2022



NAME: Brian Hardin – District 48

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1. **Local Control** - With so many decisions from the legislature impacting local boards, NASB is interested in your view of local control. Regarding education, what decisions do you feel are best made at the school board level vs. the State level?

- *All decisions at the local -- school board level.*

2. **School Funding** - Every year the legislature makes decisions about the way schools are funded, making predictability of funding a challenge. What changes and/or adjustments, if any, do you think the Legislature should address?

- *The addition of incremental sales tax -- both locally and at the state level; creating more welcoming tax environments (property, personal and corporate) for job creators... better paying jobs follow the creators.*

3. **Role of Education in the State** - What role do you think PK-12 Education plays in the future success of the State and your community?

- *It's vital. My concern is that it's not up to the task of developing quality learners and outcomes. Our own district is showing very low assessments in math and English Arts for the latest figures. Deeply disconcerting.*

4. **Educational Workforce** - Educational workforce continues to be a challenge across the State from teachers to bus drivers. What would be your plan to address this challenge?

- *Make licensing requirements from other states less onerous to meet. If our challenges are great, meet them with new and unique solutions.*

5. **Mandates** - School districts continue to be challenged by the increasing unfunded mandates put upon them by the State and Federal government. What is your response to mandates and the State's role in them?

- *Since NE ranks 47th in state funding for such things, it's time we force the state to pay for the "improvements" it requires. Many of them are worthwhile. The validity of such claims will be tested when we balance our state contribution to the advantages we've passed to local governments. Perhaps NE can climb to an astonishing number -- like 40th or even 35th (worst) state to contribute to educational mandates. We pat ourselves on the back for having a billion in excess and 2% spending increases. I fear it has been done with some smoke and mirrors and deflection to the local level for too long.*

Final Thoughts

- *Do not teach children WHAT to think. Teach them HOW to think. Fashionable indoctrination on the part of some has spoiled the good efforts of many teachers who are not a part of the woke dogmas being forced upon many children in our state. Stop that at every level. Create the conditions which help our kids improve those basic assessment scores. The trend is moving the wrong way and for too long.*

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