

League of Women Voters

Questionnaire for Spring 2005 Candidates

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- May we print this information? YES

1. What educational, occupational, civic and community experience have you had that you believe qualifies you for this office?

I have a BA in psychology, focused on child and cognitive areas, and experimental design; worked with institutionalized children at what was then Central Colony; earned an MS in Computer Science and Law degree from UW; worked at UW Research and Development Center for Education in analysis and design of educational experiments in public schools. Through our daughter (now 16), adopted at the age of 5 from Peru, and having no education, I have an understanding of the challenges and efforts of both parents and child that is required to triumph academically.

2. How do you define the role of the school board, including its relationship to the superintendent?

The school board is the elected governing authority of the school district and as such has a fiduciary responsibility to the public, students and the school district staff. It must conduct itself in an open and transparent manner. It must listen: to the public and staff; it must hear: the public and staff. It must make the right decisions and engender trust that those decisions are indeed correct. It must lead.

It must delegate day-to-day operations to the superintendent but must explicitly specify: the desired

results, the principles and policies, fund the resources, set accountability, and establish consequences.

3. What is the value of including the following in the school curriculum: a) bilingual education for all children; b) music and art; c) civics; d) 4-year-old kindergarten; e) preparation for the workforce?

Bilingual education is important in establishing a catholic mindset, and lessening prejudice. Music and art, important itself, enhances the power of observation and creativity. Civics can either be an instrument of blind obedience and reverence, or of high expectations for principled decisions and the social contract between institutions and the people. Four-year-old kindergarten can give lower achieving kids opportunities to close the “gap”. Preparation for the workforce (“getting a job”) is least important. Becoming an educated person means understanding the world, making rational decisions, contributing, setting worthwhile goals. “Getting a job” means becoming a cog in someone else’s wheel.