



Local Candidate Questionnaire District 205



Background

Candidate Name: **Denise Pearson**

Party:

Office and Sub District You Are Seeking: **Re-election of School Board Member Sub-District A**

Name of Campaign Committee: **Citizens for Denise Pearson**

Education Background: **Bachelor of Science in Management Studies**

Occupation, Place of Employment: **Community Health Coordinator, Health Care Service Corporations**

Name(s) of Opponents: **Lisa M. Jackson**

Questions

1. Do you have an understanding of the District 205's current strategic objectives? Which objectives would you like to see emphasized or changed and why?

I understand there are four strategic objectives that are embedded in the Superintendent's contract and if they are not met his contract may be nonrenewable. I would like to see 3rd grad literacy emphasized because, it directly impacts the students success in their educational career.

2. Attracting and retaining sufficient excellent teachers is a priority for the district. What do you think of the district's five initiatives to accomplish this (Rockford University Pathway, HBCU partnership with Central State, NIU LEAP, Aspiring Teachers, and housing incentives)? Which would you revise or emphasize?

All of the above are good initiatives and provide opportunity. The HBCU partnership initiative should have a broader reach, which is currently being addressed by Dr. Antoine Reed, the Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer along with his team.

3. What do you think of the district's system of evaluating the performance of schools? How should under-performing schools be addressed?

I Think district's system of evaluating the performance of schools is necessary for the for the purpose of measuring success of our schools. However, it is important to take into consideration other factors that affect student performance such as attendance, home life and societal issues.

4. What do you think of the district's strategy of driving funding for strategic personnel investments at schools with greatest need? How do you plan to evaluate the success of this effort?

The district's strategy of driving funding for strategic personnel investment at schools with greatest need is vital for the success of the student. I plan to evaluate the success of this effort by student achievement. Keeping in mind the need to identify students learning style.

5. What will be your approach to holding yourself, the board and administration accountable? How do you define success for your potential term?

My approach of self accountability thoroughly preparing for school board meetings and reviewing informative communications from district's leadership team. Also, providing open communication with internal and external stakeholders. I will hold the administration accountable for transparency and changing the narrative of the district. I define success for my expected term by engaging with both internal and external stakeholders.

6. What will be your approach to making the board a cohesive and effective unit?

My approach to making the board a cohesive and effective unit is building a positive and respectful working relationship with other board members understanding, that our perspectives may be different.

7. What community engagement and support do you want to see for the board and the district?

I would like to parents and community members attend school board meetings more frequent. Also being a part of the solution to the many problems some of our schools are faced with. The board members should be willing to go beyond the boardroom. We should participate in school visit, attending staff meeting as much as possible and being supportive of students activities.

8. What strategic partnerships do you want to see created by the District?

Establishing partnerships with grassroots organizations and small businesses for the purpose of providing additional support to meet the needs of our students and their families.

9. What do you think are the challenges and solutions to school safety? Do you support or oppose the Rockford Police in the schools as resource officers?

One of the challenges is educating guardian / parents on the student code of conduct, calming the fears of parents due to the growing incidents of school violence globally. The solution is, making sure community members have a voice when the student code of conduct is being revised. I support Rockford Police in the schools as a resource officers for the purpose of assisting in de-escalating during intense situation, with an understanding the officers will have proper deescalation training specifically for youth.

10. What responsibility does the school district and the school board have to the business community of Rockford? Do you feel the District is meeting that responsibility?

The school district have a responsibility to universally prepare students for life after graduation, which includes being prepared to enter the workforce. The board is responsible for holding the district accountable for fulfilling such responsibility. I do not feel the District is meeting this responsibility.

11. What is the status of student academic achievement in your District? And how can it be improved?

The academic achievement in my District is low, it can be improved by reviewing and possibly changing the current curriculum and identifying students learning styles.

12. What in your background leads you to believe that you would be an effective school board member?

First, I am currently in the role as a board member and have the ability to form positive working relationships with other board members. I also have advocacy experience and educational background in business.

Do you Support or Oppose the Following

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Support | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oppose | Year-Round Schools |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | Charter Schools |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | Magnet Schools |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | School Uniforms |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose | Comprehensive Truancy/dropout prevention program |