



Network Delaware's Reproductive Justice Campaign sent a survey to candidates running for School Board positions across the state to learn more about where they stand on reproductive justice issues. All candidates who answered are listed below.

Q: Would you support comprehensive, medically accurate, evidence-based, age appropriate, and culturally competent sex education? (Answer Choices: No Interest, Minimal Interest, Interest, Champion; Additional Comment Optional)

- **[Calvin Jackson, Cape Henlopen](#)**: Champion
Comment: I would support comprehensive, medically accurate, evidence-based, age appropriate, and culturally competent sex education. Ideally, children should get all of the sex education information they need at home from their parents and guardians, but schools also should be a source of information. Research shows that abstinence-only education doesn't affect the rates at which teenagers decide to have sex. While comprehensive sex education doesn't discourage kids from having sex either, it does teach them how to do so more safely. Just like abstinence-only programs, good comprehensive programs teach students that abstinence is the only absolute way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The difference is that these comprehensive programs also give students realistic and factual information about the safety of various sexual practices.
- **[Andy Lewis, Cape Henlopen](#)**: Interest
- **[Janet Maull-Martin, Cape Henlopen](#)**: Interest
Comment: Our Board has established Board Policy 212: Family Life and Sexuality Education which sets guidelines for sex education in grades 9-12 which is to be taught within the framework of courses such as Health, Biology, and Human/Child Development to name a few. In the elementary grades a maturation program is offered to the boys and girls and parents. These are same sex classes and parent may request that their student not take part.
- **[Alison Myers, Cape Henlopen](#)**: Interest
- **[Tanya Kerns, Colonial](#)**: Champion
Comment: Yes, I support sex education. In order to produce well-rounded students who are college and career ready, the education our schools provide must include sex education.
- **[Dawn Lentz, Appoquinimink](#)**: Interest
- **[Steve McCarron, Woodbridge](#)**: Interest
- **[Scott Smith, Indian River](#)**: Minimal Interest
- **[Debbie Zareck, Brandywine](#)**: Champion
Comment: I strongly support comprehensive, age appropriate sexual education. My three children have participated in OWL (Our Whole Lives) at our Unitarian church, which starts classes in 1st grade, again 3rd & 4th grade and finally 8th and 9th. The education was outstanding and I would love it if all the school districts implemented a more robust and thorough curriculum.



Q: How will you support transgender students in the classroom and in school buildings?

- **[Calvin Jackson, Cape Henlopen](#)**: A major responsibility shared by all school administrators – superintendents, principals, and teachers, and other staff -- is the obligation to ensure that a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment is provided for all students. This responsibility is especially important for transgender students and others whose gender expression differs from the norm, because a growing body of evidence indicates that these children and youth are often targets of harassment, discrimination, bullying and violence in school settings. Transgender students are protected from discrimination, bullying, and harassment under many federal and state laws. This includes Title IX, the federal law that bans sex discrimination in schools. Our country has made great strides in LGBTQ protections in some states, however most LGBTQ youth today still experience increased levels of bullying and harassment in schools -- including 3 in 5 transgender youth who report being forced to use school restrooms that don't match their gender identity. To address the issue of bullying, I would advocate for the implementation of a program where all staff is accountable towards the common goal of reducing bullying. I would also advocate for programs that inform and educate teachers and staff about transgender issues. School support staff such as school psychologists and counselors may be key resources, especially if they have had specific training related to sexual development and gender identity. All staff should be taught to recognize bullying and take immediate action when it occurs. I would also encourage teachers and staff to work closely with transgender students and, to the extent possible, with the student's parents/ guardians.
- **[Andy Lewis, Cape Henlopen](#)**: As a school board member, our ability to support any students is through policy setting. The LGBTQ community is a large part of the community of our district. Since our mission is to provide the best education for ALL our students, we are aware and take into consideration transgender students when setting policies. I support this focus.
- **[Janet Maull-Martin, Cape Henlopen](#)**: As a public school we are tasked with providing every student with a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment. It's important that we stay informed of policy developments regarding the rights of all students including transgender students. As a Board we have to ensure that our schools provide a safe, discrimination-free environment for all students in our care while maintaining compliance with Federal and State laws. I support school wide Professional Development on Transgender Issues. School climate is very important to the emotional and physical safety of all students. The current Board is headed in the right direction as they address the wording within the Student Code of Conduct and to make any other needed changes in other areas regarding this concern.
- **[Alison Myers, Cape Henlopen](#)**: I currently sit on the school board and can attest to the work we have done with the training of our district employees on the needs of our transgender students. As a Board and District we have also worked to make the wording of our policies more inclusive of all students and have begun crafting an equity statement.
- **[Tanya Kerns, Colonial](#)**: I believe all students should be treated equally. For those students needing additional support, I would provide mentoring, peer group and counseling programs.



- **[Dawn Lentz, Appoquinimink](#)**: Like any other human being, people being forced to use a bathroom that doesn't match their identity is weird.
- **[Steve McCarron, Woodbridge](#)**: All children deserve a safe and secure environment in the school.
- ***Scott Smith, Indian Rivers***: Male and female
- **[Debbie Zareck, Brandywine](#)**: am currently trying to ensure that all of our schools in BSD have gender neutral bathrooms, especially in situations where we have 2 bathrooms that are single rooms next to each other. This is one of the easiest ways to help our transgender students feel more welcome and safe and is incredibly easy to implement.