

Name: **Mike Montandon**

NEVADA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

2010 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

GOVERNOR

Your responses to the following questions are of great importance to the 28,000 members of the Nevada State Education Association. Please answer all questions as completely as possible.

1. What do you believe is the purpose of public education in Nevada and what part can the Governor play in fulfilling that purpose?

The Governor's role is to provide a vision of what the structure of public education should be in order to ensure a quality education for every child.

2. Do you believe Nevada's revenue structure is broad and stable enough to provide the revenue necessary to fulfill the purpose of Nevada's public education system as you see it? If not, what is your proposed solution and how would you demonstrate this solution as a priority in your administration?

I believe it is unknown whether Nevada's revenue structure is adequate enough to meet our needs until there is a meaningful overhaul of the structure of public education.

3. Do you believe there is a connection between salaries and having highly qualified educators in our schools?

Yes I do. I also believe that there is a connection between salaries and a system that tolerates under-performing teachers.

4. Do you believe it's the responsibility of the Nevada Governor to create a budget that provides sufficient funding to increase the salaries of K-12 public education employees?

I believe that it's the responsibility of the Governor to create a budget that includes salary increases for education employees that deserve it.

5. Do you believe it is the responsibility of the Nevada Governor to create a budget that offsets the impact of increases in the health care costs for both active and retired K- 12 employees?

I believe that that the Governor should create a budget that offsets the impact of increases in health care costs for both and active and retired educators that deserve it.

6. What is your position on the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act— currently referred to as No Child Left Behind—and its reliance on a single test score to measure student achievement?

If you take federal dollars then you must abide by their rules or don't take their dollars.

7. Would you support any legislation that would allow teacher evaluations to be tied to students' standardized test scores?

I agree that with the Obama administration that teacher evaluation should be among other things, tied to student's standardized tests scores.

8. Would you support a bill to require professional incentives—such as working in an at-risk school and enhanced compensation programs—to be made available to all educators and bargained at the local level?

I would support legislation that provide professional incentives to be made available to all educators and bargained at the school level.

9. What is your position on school voucher programs?

I support school voucher programs.

10. What is your position on class size reduction for all grade levels and all subject areas?

I believe class size reduction should be determined by individual administrators and teachers at the school level. If a teacher can handle a larger class and meet the goals for student achievement then they should be additionally compensated for that.

11. Statewide we have more than \$450 million in deferred maintenance in our public schools and facilities. What is your position on providing state funding for maintenance and repairs of these buildings?

I would need to study that.

12. What is your position on the privatization of jobs that are currently held by school district employees?

If the mission is to provide access to a quality education for every Nevada child then privatization should be determined based on savings and quality of services.

13. Would you support any legislation that would seek to diminish the benefits of the Nevada Public Employees Retirement System?

Yes

14. Would you support any legislation that would alter the intent of Initiative Petition 1 of the 2009 Session?

Not sure

15. Do you believe Nevada's friendly tax climate is the main reason corporations choose to relocate to our state?

Yes

16. How will you utilize communication channels when handling issues that affect the Nevada State Education Association and its goals?

I will always have an open door.

I do want to be interviewed and considered for endorsement by the Nevada State Education Association. Please call me to schedule an appointment.

I do not want to be interviewed. I understand that without an interview, I cannot be considered for and endorsement.

Signature: Mike Montandon

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