Kansas Citizens for Science
State Board of Education Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate’s name ___ Chris Cindric __________ State Board of Ed. District ___ 2 ___

1. As a State Board of Education member, which of the following organizations would you trust to inform your decision-making in regards to science? Check all that apply.

   a. American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) __x__
   b. Kansas Policy Institute (KPI) __________
   c. The National Academies of Science (NAS) __x__
   d. The Discovery Institute __________
   e. The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) __x__
   f. Heartland Institute __________
   g. The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) __x__
   h. The Institute for Creation Research (ICR) __________
   i. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) __x__
   j. Marshall Institute __________
   k. Fox News Network __________
   l. Public Broadcasting (NPR/PBS) __________
   m. National Center for Science Education (NCSE) __x__

Other organizations you rely on for accurate information in the area of science: (Please name)

2. Would you support retaining the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for students in Kansas?

   Yes, they are scientifically, accurate, research-based, cross science, disciplines, and internationally benchmarked.

3. What do you see as the role of the State Board and the Kansas State Department of Education in providing the necessary resources for implementing NGSS?

   I think the best thing the State Board can do is to provide access/training to all educators across KS by bringing in experts across the science disciplines and/or allowing educators to attend trainings in order to fully participate in the state-of-the-art technology and informational practices.

4. What do you think should be the role of the State Board of Education in writing curricular standards in science?

   Minimal, at best. I am not a scientist but, if a board member is, or has been, a renowned expert in a science discipline, then participation on a team of educators and scientists would be the most I would suggest is appropriate.

5. What is your view on providing an age-appropriate, medically accurate, comprehensive approach to sex education for the students of Kansas?

   I am supportive of comprehensive, fact-based, age-appropriate sex education. Research indicates that lack of knowledge increases the frequency of sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy.
6. In your view, who has the primary responsibility for determining the licensing requirements for secondary math, science, technology, and engineering teachers, and why? I believe the SBOE, in conjunction with KSDE is responsible for the licensure of secondary math, science, technology, and engineering teachers. I believe that content is as vital as pedagogy and passing a Praxis, while vital, should not be the entire path to teaching. We need quality well-trained trained teachers and not just content masters.

7. What can the State Board do to help recruit and retain highly qualified STEM teachers for Kansas schools?

We now have innovative districts which allow alternative pathways to licensure for grades 8-12. I think that is short-sighted with a teacher shortage. Making teaching a quality profession as it once was, through professional learning and mentoring (and applicable payment for these supports) would be a good start.

8. Do you have any other comments about science education you would wish to share with the voters of Kansas?
I support all students having access to state of the art, quality instruction in science, across disciplines, in order to be competitive in this world. My son is an ICU physician. Without top-of-the line instruction and access to science standards in HS across disciplines he would not have been prepared for college, Med school, and his profession All children deserve the same access.