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.

- American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) __x__
- Kansas Policy Institute (KPI) ___
- The National Academies of Science (NAS) __x__
- The Discovery Institute ___
- The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) ___X__
- Heartland Institute ___
- The National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) __x__
- The Institute for Creation Research (ICR) ___
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) ___
- Marshall Institute ___
- Fox News Network ___
- Public Broadcasting (NPR/PBS) ___
- National Center for Science Education (NCSE) __x__

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

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

- 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?

  The State Board should ensure that the State Department of Education is providing the necessary staff development for practicing teachers to effectively implement NGSS. In addition, the standards that guide the education of pre-service science teachers need to reflect the NGSS.

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

  The role of the State Board in writing science curricular standards should be to appoint a cross-section of teachers who teach science to write the standards. They should represent rural, medium-sized, and urban communities, as well as be from different Board Districts, and represent elementary, middle and high school levels. At the High School level teachers of all science areas
should be represented. It would also be wise to have representation from the post-secondary level as well to ensure the standards were preparing students for that level of education. Once the standards are written, then we must have a time of public comment prior to a final determination by the Board.

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

I believe that it should be as you state above, but abstinence based. The information regarding other forms of birth control should be provided with an emphasis that abstinence is the only certain way to avoid pregnancy and STD’s. [Of course, because local school boards, not the State Board of Education are given Constitutional authority to determine curriculum, the Local School Board may choose a different approach to sex education.]

- In your view, who has the primary responsibility for determining the licensing requirements for secondary math, science, technology, and engineering teachers, and why?

The primary responsibility for determining the licensing requirements resides with the State Board of Education. We appoint, to a writing committee, individuals who teach the subject at Elementary, Middle and High School and college/university professors who also teach the subject. They determine the standards that they feel should be met for an individual to be licensed in that subject. The Committee presents their work to the State Board for its approval. On occasion, questions have arisen regarding why certain standards are included. Why is the State Board of Education involved? The Kansas Constitution requires the State Board to supervise local school districts and one of the ways we accomplish that is to license teachers to teach. To be implemented, an article in the Constitution must have a statute that provides for the details of how that Constitutional Article will be interpreted and implemented. I am certain that the statute requires the State Board of Education be responsible for licensing teachers, but because it is in statute it also gives the Legislature the ability to amend it. They did that a few years ago when they required individuals with a Degree and 3 years or more experience in a STEM area be granted a teaching license.

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

The State Board could recommend to the Governor that a Scholarship Fund be set up for
students studying to be STEM teachers. It could be modeled after the Scholarship that
students who are willing to work in underserved areas have available to them. If they
would teach for a period of time their scholarship would be forgiven, if they left the
profession or moved to another state, etc. they would be required to repay the
scholarship. It has worked well in the Medical field.

We also can encourage the Legislators to be positive toward educators and education
thus providing the necessary funding, etc. so students can see a positive future in
education.

- Do you have any other comments about science education you would wish to share with
the voters of Kansas?

Science education is vital to the health of all Kansans as well as to the state’s
economy. We need educators who will inspire our next generation of physicians,
veterinarians, agronomists, engineers, science teachers, etc.