Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate’s name _Janet Waugh___________________________  District ___1____

1. As a candidate running for office, which of the following organizations would you use 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_

n. Social Media (Facebook/Twitter/Reddit)  ___
Other organizations you rely on for accurate information in the area of science: (Please name)
Experts at KSDE

2. What does “academic freedom” mean to you in terms of education?
Students should be well rounded when they graduate high school. Part of this is enjoying the freedom to engage more deeply in topics of their choice while we ensure they have many options to explore.

3. How would you decide what constitutes suitable funding for public education?
Funding in the state of Kansas has always been a challenge. I believe suitable funding will allow our Kansan’s Can Vision to be fully implemented. This means we have to provide competitive salaries for staff, replace programs and positions (like paras) that were cut during the funding crisis, employ more school counselors, school psychs, social workers, etc. I will continue to work with the board to recommend suitable funding for our schools.

4. On what issues affecting Kansas do you feel you could need scientific information to inform your decision-making?
Any issue that involves science. I have always depended on experts in science to advise me on controversial & non-controversial science issues.

5. How do you assess the reports by the IPCC and the National Climate Assessment on the impact of climate change on our nation and planet? What actions should be taken in Kansas in response?
These reports were developed by international experts on climate change. It is important to review these studies as well as visit with local scientific experts to obtain proper interpretation.

6. How do you view the role of organizations like the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) in initiating model legislation?
Negatively.

7. How do you view the role of elected bodies in determining policies and procedures such as the licensing of secondary science teachers and curricular decisions under the Next Generation Science Standards?
Elected bodies should seek input from science experts prior to making decisions in these areas.

8. What can your organization do to help recruit and retain highly qualified STEM teachers for Kansas schools?
We currently have a teacher shortage in all areas. The State Board has appointed a Retention & Recruitment Committee to review challenges & make recommendations on how we can retain & recruit teachers, remove barriers, etc. while not lowering high standards. This is difficult, but I believe it can be accomplished.

9. Would you support retaining the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for students in Kansas?
These are excellent standards; however, I believe they should be reviewed during the normal cycle to see if any changes need to be made.

10. Who do you think should be involved in writing curricular standards in science? We should include educators from all levels (elementary, secondary & postsecondary), businesses that deal with science, families, community members, etc. It is important that we have well rounded standards that will serve our students well in the workforce.

11. Do you have any other comments on the relationship between science and public policy in Kansas that you would wish to share with the voters?
I am very appreciative of the relationship I have shared with the science community since I started on the State Board. They were very helpful to me during some difficult times and continue to offer suggestions or help.

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