

NBC's *Today*

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7:41:14 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; 8:06 AM; One-on-One With Dr. Jill Biden]

HODA KOTB: All right, still ahead, Sheinelle — she's got an exclusive interview with the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden on her fond memories of the queen and her mission to celebrate and help teachers all across the country.

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8:00:50 a.m. [TEASE]

22 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: One-on-One]

KOTB: Then, one-on-one. Sheinelle sits down with Dr. Jill Biden. The First Lady sharing her own memorable encounter with the queen —

FIRST LADY JILL BIDEN: I think she just wanted to talk about her husband.

KOTB: — and revealing her hopes for the future of education.

BIDEN: What we need to do is encourage younger people to — to come into the profession.

KOTB: Plus, what she thinks of hitting the campaign trail in 2024.

(...)

8:05:11 a.m.

4 minutes and 24 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: News at 8; Dr. Jill Biden Remembers Queen Elizabeth]

SAVANNAH GUTHRIE: Among the world leaders who will travel to London to pay their final respects to the queen next week, President Biden along with the First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden. And Sheinelle caught up with Dr. Biden for an exclusive conversation yesterday as she kicked off the Road to Success, Back to School bus tour in Knoxville, Tennessee. Sheinelle, I mean, what a great opportunity to get to see Dr. Biden and she gets to reminisce with you about the queen.

SHEINELLE JONES: She did and she had a lot to say. Good morning. Dr. Biden is focused on celebrating teachers as everyone heads back to school, but in light of the queen's passing, we started our conversation talking about the First Lady's personal memories of Queen Elizabeth.

[TO BIDEN] Then you and the President had tea with her just last year. What will you remember about the queen?

BIDEN: You know, first, I want to say that our hearts are with the queen's family. What I loved about her was that she was really independent. We went up to her living room and they said to us, like, don't talk about family. So, we went up. And so, the first thing she starts with is, is family. So, Prince Philip had just died recently and I think, you know, she knows Joe. I think she just wanted to talk about her husband. She poured tea and Joe and I said, "let us help you." "No, you know, you sit there and I'll get the tea." And then she had such curiosity. You know, she wanted to know about American politics, what was happening, so she put us at ease.

JONES: Before traveling overseas to honor the life of Queen Elizabeth later this week Dr. Jill Biden was in a place she knows well on Monday: the classroom. The First Lady, a teacher herself, visiting an elementary school in Knoxville, Tennessee.

BIDEN: Well, I just want to say thank you to the three of you for becoming teachers.

JONES: Dr. Biden showing support for her fellow teachers with Education Secretary Miguel Cardona while also working to welcome those who aspire to be educators. [TO BIDEN] You are one of so many teachers returning to the classroom. Meanwhile, there are schools across the country facing shortages. It's such a challenge. What concerns you the most when we talk about staffing for schools?

BIDEN: This has been happening for a couple of years now. We've seen it coming. Teacher workforce was skewed a little bit older, you know, for several years now. But what we need to do is encourage younger people to come into the profession and — and also teachers of color.

JONES: Parents and politicians are now weighing in on what books should be in our school libraries and what their kids are being taught. Where is the line, in your opinion, with how much of a say parents should have when it comes to what their kids are learning in school?

BIDEN: Well, I think with the pandemic parents saw how hard teachers work and how difficult this job really is and I think if they work together in their school districts and decide what they want with their curriculum.

JONES: Is there a balance between, you know, this book should be in the library?

BIDEN: All books should be in the library. All books. This is America. We don't ban books.

JONES: Dr. Biden has been First Lady now for nearly two years with the president saying he will run again in 2024. [TO BIDEN] Have you talked about it with him?

BIDEN: Not yet. We have been a little bit too busy. Not yet, but I'm sure it will be a discussion.

JONES: Do you feel ready, you and President Biden, to — to hit a second presidential campaign?

It has to be taxing?

BIDEN: Well, you know, it is taxing. But, you know, look at the — look at all Joe has done. He has kept true to what he said he would do, and so I think he just needs to keep going.

JONES: We are going to hear much more from Dr. Biden in our Third Hour, including the learning loss so many kids around the country have experienced because of the pandemic. We talk about COVID, which she did to pass the time. Again, much more on education. We had a really full — a full conversation.

CRAIG MELVIN: It was interesting to hear Dr. Biden say no books should be banned.

JONES: Mmhmm. No books should be banned.

MELVIN: All books should be in the library.

JONES: And, you know, again, the backdrop was this school in Knoxville, Tennessee, when she walked in, you know, bright-eyed faces, second, third-year teachers. And I noticed you have so many teachers so enthusiastic, second-year teachers, and then something happens —

MELVIN: Yeah.

JONES: — you know, a few years in —

KOTB: Yeah.

JONES: — where they want to quit —

MELVIN: Right.

JONES: — so we'll talk about that as well.

KOTB: Good.

MELVIN: That was great.

KOTB: Nice conversation.

GUTHRIE: An important conversation. Sheinelle, thank you.