

## Candidate Questionnaire

Why are you running for school board?

I feel that there is a disconnect between the school board and residents of the district. I would like to be part of bridging that gap. As an over 40 year resident of this district myself and an East Aurora Alumni, I know and have lived first hand the Tradition of Excellence that this district was founded on. I realize that there needs to be more clear communication between the board and the residents of the district for the productive future of our students.

If the economy continues on its current path, what specific programs would you recommend to cut from the district budget? It would be irresponsible of me to answer this question at this time. When President Obama was campaigning he stated that he felt that many programs needed to be looked at after he took office and see what was available to cut, what wasn't working and what was. I feel that I must mirror this type of thinking. After I am elected is when I can have more information on all of the programs within the district. I can then review each and assess what is and is not working, what is and is not outdated, what programs are counter productive, if any to our current budget and future proposed budget concerns.

Is there a way to address funding shortages without having to cut programs or services (i.e. short-term borrowing or a referendum)? Would you support such measures?

Absolutely. To cut any programs that are functional, that are productive could cause a

negative impact to our students. I would certainly support not cutting anything that is productive if it is for the betterment of the students, however again, until I take office, until I have more access to research and review the programs available and the cost effectiveness of each, I feel it would be irresponsible for me to make assumptions on this question at this time.

Do you support cutting arts programs such as music and drama to help balance the district's budget? Extracurricular activities? Early childhood initiatives? Explain. Again, my answer would be similar to my answers to the other questions on cutting anything. Until the time I actually take office and am priviledged to information regarding the structure of these programs, the costs associated with them, the interests and intentions of the students to pursue them, the overall benefits of each program, I cannot assume that something should stay or be cut. I do feel overall though that students need and want extra curricular programs, that both music and drama are necessary Arts of which are important to a childs overall well being and provide students with options for a positive future.

What, if anything, can the district be doing (that it isn't already) to encourage lawmakers in Springfield and Washington, D.C. to address funding issues back home? Lawmakers need to be made aware of all the districts challenges where funding and more is concerned. I feel that we need to address each lawmaker that affects our district with face to face meetings, with on site visits to our schools so that they can see first hand the challenges that face our students when monies are withheld from our district. Lawmakers need to see the impact that low, slow and unavailable funds makes on our students.

Do you support the current administration? Explain. I respect any and all members of the administration. Administration work in a district this size is an exhausting task to say the least. I will not say I have always agreed with everything they have done or proposed however, I cannot assume to know what the daily trials and tribulations are of administrators. I do know, however that as a school board member, I will do anything and everything within my power to work hand in hand with the administration, to respect their point of view, to suggest alternatives where applicable and be an active part of any resolution measures between the administration, the school board and the residents of the school district.

What role can the school board play (that it isn't already) in improving student achievement? The school board can begin by looking at all programs offered first, evaluating them as to their productivity, their cost effectiveness and most of all, the impact they have on the students. If there is a positive impact on the students and a desire of the students to continue certain programs, then every effort should be made to see that they stay in place. The school board can also initiate student input in the form of interviews, questionnaires and the like to see what types of programs that students themselves find effective or not effective. The school board can research and obtain information from other school boards, other districts where student achievement is on a higher level and work towards making this a high priority goal. It is by sharing that we learn. It is selfish of us as board members to believe that we know all the answers without interviewing others that have been in our positions currently and previously.

What are the three biggest issues facing the school district? How would you address them? Financial, Overall District Report Card, Image. Financially, the district receives very little monies when compared to other districts throughout the state. This is why I discussed the importance of the face to face with lawmakers that can bring about a positive change in this aspect. The overall district report card, as we know shows many substandard areas of concern. The unfortunate thing about this is that there are many students who are high achievers and they are not shown as such due to the low end bringing down the report card as a total. One of my goals is to see that the students who are on the lower end of this are brought to higher standards, to make sure that these students have a reason to achieve what may be their goals for a productive future. Parent participation is something that we need to address. Parents also need to be made accountable for their children's interest in high achievement. I believe that I have a proven track record on bringing positive change to the table, of talking with parents to show them how to get interested in their child's future. The youth of today IS tomorrow's future and this is a high priority. Image concerns are that as our district report card took a downward turn so did the public perception of the students, administrators and school board of this district. I feel that this is something that has been unfairly labeled about this district. The students of this district are young people just like anywhere else. But the negativity surrounding this district does have an impact on the students' perception as well. We need to show the students that they are capable, that they are worthy of our undivided attention and that with our help and with our perseverance, that they can truly be anything they want to be. There is a man, raised by a teenage mother who overcame the statistical odds and is now President of The United States. We can overcome our obstacles and challenges. We will make opportunities for these students to be heard and to achieve their dreams in a positive manner.

For everyone but the incumbent – Why should voters choose you over the incumbent(s)?  
Need for a change. A fresh face with fresh ideas, a motivated individual that is willing to go above and beyond for the district. An individual who has a personal heartfelt desire to bring about changes for the better as a resident of the district, an alumni of the district and a parent of young children myself.

For the incumbent(s) – Why should you be re-elected over the challenger(s)?