

# The Beacon News

## Candidate Questionnaire

Why are you running for school board?

**I am running for re-election to the board of education in an effort to continue supporting initiatives that will provide students with up to date curriculum tools allowing them to be competitive in seeking higher education as well as skills allowing them to provide for their families; continue supporting efforts in seeking and correcting potential problems before they become costly solutions in maintaining buildings and grounds, continue recruitment of teachers, administrators and support staff that support and create avenues addressing the district's vision of "Making Choices for Excellence", continue soliciting the City of Aurora to attract business on the east side of Aurora that will provide tax dollars for the district allowing the district to stretch our dollars beyond the 25 year projection, continue supporting policies and procedures that will continue to provide structure, accountability, vision, safety, and address state and federal mandates for the education of our children. I will continue to seek support from the residents of district 131 to support our students not only financially, but becoming part of the solutions through participation, suggestions and recommendations.**

If the economy continues on its current path, what specific programs would you recommend to cut from the district budget?

**I would not like to see any programs cut, all programs are created for the enhancement of our students. However, combining programs may allow the opportunity to redirect funding in an effort to maintain programs.**

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?

**The district constantly seeks solutions for addressing funding shortages that will prevent cutting programs and will have the least amount of impact to the residents of district 131. Yes, I will support measures that will provide funding to the district including working with the City of Aurora and our legislators to receive funding that has been allocated to the district and not received. Continue to work with our state and national leaders to create a formula for education funding that will take the burden off homeowners and our senior citizens.**

Do you support cutting arts programs such as music and drama to help balance the district's budget? Extracurricular activities? Early childhood initiatives? Explain.

**Music, Drama and Extracurricular activities are an essential part of educating our children that can lead to scholarships for higher education and employment. I would not like to see any of these programs cut and would seek other alternatives to provide these programs for our students. Early childhood programs are extremely important in the education of our children offering a foundation**

**for formal education, again other alternatives must be provided to see that these programs remain in place.**

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?

**As residents of district 131 WE must hold our legislators accountable for seeking funding for our district. We must keep education funding as a top priority when selecting our leadership. We need to aggressively write, call, fax, or e-mail State and Federal leaders demanding that they address school funding.**

Do you support the current administration? Explain.

**I have had the opportunity to see first hand the district continued growth and success under the present administration in addressing the needs of the students and the residents of district 131. I am looking forward to working with the current administration as we continue to move district 131 forward meeting the technology and challenging needs of our students. Is there room for improvements, yes, there is always room for improvements when we address the challenge in meeting the needs of the district.**

What role can the school board play (that it isn't already) in improving student achievement?

**To continue working with proven solutions that has worked in other districts. The board must provide students with incentives that address the technical world they are living in. The board need to support the Illinois Association of School Board as well as the National Association of School Board in making sure our leaders provide funding for state and federal mandated programs and our leaders are not changing the rules of the game in the middle of programs.**

What are the three biggest issues facing the school district? How would you address them?

- 1. The achievement gap....Seek parental support in addressing the importance of an education, by encouraging children's attendance, participation, respect for themselves, school property, staff and other students, providing children with the necessary tools to be successful . Addressing the curriculum tools and additional alternative support for students.**
- 2. Drop out rate.... Providing incentives that address the technical world our students are living in, embrace the concept that it takes the entire City of Aurora to educate a child and that the students of today are our tomorrow, provide support making school the COOL place to be.**
- 3. Continued funding for public education... continue to seek avenues to stretch our dollars by combining services and holding our state and national leaders accountable for addressing educational funding.**

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

**As a sitting board member I have a proven record of supporting the children and residents of district 131. I am not afraid to tackle the big challenges facing the district. I am a person you can count on to continue working for the best interest of East Aurora District 131. I have visions to continue moving the district forward. I have reached some of my goals for the district including the Pre-School Center, addressing safety in the buildings with ID badges for staff and visitors, Red and Black Pride Community walk, supported alternative learning environment for students who can not function in a normal school setting. I have challenged developers and the City of Aurora in providing avenues that will provide tax dollars for the district. Even though I have accomplish some of my goals for district 131, there is still work to be done to ensure our children are successful in providing for their families.**

