

Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce
Candidate Questionnaire

2018 Spring Election – Board of Education, Oshkosh Area School District

1. The public schools have a crucial role relating to the development of human resource talent in our community. With budget deficits, arguments have been made inferring that education quality will suffer if teachers' wages are not increased. Do you agree with this inference? Do you believe a correlation exists between teacher salary and the quality education? Please discuss your answer. *I do believe that there is a correlation between low pay and quality of instruction. Enrollment in collage education programs across the country are down because students are foregoing a career in education. Low wages is mentioned as a deciding factor of why they chose another major.*
2. When the OASD has funding shortfalls in upcoming budget year that force the District to cut education programs and/or classes, what aspects of current school district operations can be discontinued? *Because oshkosh was a low spending district when spending caps were imposed, we are one of the lowest spending districts in the state. Because of those caps we have been consistently cutting programs and classes. All of the easy choices were made years ago. The hard choices were made within the last few years, what is left are the choices that will destroy the system. These include closing schools, consolidating sports teams and eliminating educational opportunities for students. Oshkosh is the 14 biggest district in the state frankly we should be embarrassed the we are also one of the lowest spending.*
3. As a member of the Board of Education, what specific issues will be your area of primary focus? *Literacy, staff retention, school parity.*
4. Please list the top strategic issues that the Oshkosh Area School District faces.
Improve literacy rates across the district. School security and helping the new superintendent get acclimated into the district and community
5. Is there something that the Oshkosh schools are not presently doing that you believe will significantly improve educational quality? What is that and why do you believe it to be desirable? *I believe that changing our STEM (Science,Technology Engineering and Math) programs into STEAM (Adding the arts to the above) would be very beneficial. Every study that I have read indicates that students learn faster and retain longer when the arts are incorporated in to the curriculum.*
6. What priorities will guide your actions as fiscal pressures impact facilities, staffing, programs and services? *We have held a number of budget resolution sessions where the public works with the administration to come up with a list of painful and merciless cuts that if enacted would be the end of the district but if were necessary we would be forced to enact these*

measures. I would hope that people would realize how draconian these cuts would be and would act accordingly.

7. Bray Architects performed a Facility Condition Assessment for the Oshkosh Area School District that estimated over \$100 million of facility improvement projects for our area school building. Please discuss your thoughts on how to address these improvements. *This number would have been much higher if not for the energy savings program that OASD utilized to address long term deferred maintenance projects and it is a shame that this program is no longer available. The study was a snap shot of the current needs that we are facing. It is not a to-do list. With an average building age of 80+ years we will need to consider weather it is more economical to rebuild or remodel some of our buildings. We will be asking the community what their thoughts are on the possibility of closing some long time neighborhood schools and replacing them with a larger more regionally located building. Deferring maintenance like the district has down in the past is not the answer and in fact one could argue that is a major contributor to the position we are faced with now.*