

**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.

Since we do live in an area where teachers in neighboring districts make as much as \$10,000 more per year than OASD teachers, I think that teacher compensation packages are part of the bigger picture of what will need to be addressed to assure that we can attract and retain talented people. Because there is also a rapidly decreasing pool of teachers available in the state of Wisconsin, we may have to offer additional options that would further enhance working conditions, morale, and culture in our district.

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?

I will aspire to protect student learning programs as much as possible. I would much rather increase enrollment so we could close our financial gaps by growing revenues instead of cutting expenses.

3. As a member of the Board of Education, what specific issues will be your area of primary focus?

My top three issues are moving the needle on our literacy scores, improving the way we address the behavioral and emotional issues of our students, and continuing to reduce the number of students who open enroll into other districts.

4. Please list the top strategic issues that the Oshkosh Area School District faces.

The top strategic issues include addressing our need for sustainable funding, improving all communications related to the district, closing the achievement gaps, creating a plan from the facilities audit, and attracting and retaining talented staff.

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?

Now that all students have access to technology, I would like to see us continue to leverage it to make education more individualized for each student. By not treating all students as though they have the same learning styles, students will be able to find an approach that suits them best making it more likely for them to do well and succeed.

If possible, I would love for our teachers and building leaders to be encouraged and rewarded for trying new and different things. This would allow us to find better approaches for our students and be able to implement them quickly and efficiently.

Lastly, I would like to see us move away from high stakes, standardized testing to looking at additional metrics that take into account other student characteristics. As we know, standardized test scores are a single snapshot of how a student is performing at that moment and does not show progress and growth over time in various areas. We can take some of the pressure of our kids and staff by showcasing multiple metrics of success for our students.

6. What priorities will guide your actions as fiscal pressures impact facilities, staffing, programs and services?

My top priority is always student learning.

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.

My understanding is that Bray produced a facilities audit that will serve as a guide for our district and BOE to make informed decisions about future facilities projects. If elected, I plan to use the Bray audit to help us create a long term facilities plan.