

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.

Many studies have shown that better teacher pay leads to better teacher quality and that leads to improved student performance. I believe having competitive professional wages enhances teacher quality because it promotes competition and makes us attractive to potential recruits therefore we will get more and better teacher applicants. This will also help OASD keep the current quality staff we have instead of them having to chose to leave for better pay.

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?

OASD runs a tight budget currently. If operations aspects need to be looked at they should be prioritized for the needs of the students. Discontinuation of any operation should avoid negative impacts to student learning.

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

My primary focus is the best education for all students of Oshkosh. Some issues that need focus are achievement gaps, expulsion rate, and our student mental health.

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

Most districts are facing the same strategic issues as OASD. The top issues are the national and state educational budget cuts and the mental health of our children.

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 OASD is providing quality education to our students. I would like to expand and grow our diversity training and cultural relevant instruction. These programs will impact all of our students and help make Oshkosh a stronger community.

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

Maintaining a high quality education for all students is my priority and will guide my actions related to financial needs for the district.

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.

Bray Architects performed a facility study to help us develop a long range facilities plan. We look forward to evaluating the options from Bray and we are currently following the organizational process plan.