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I have been a lifelong resident of the Oshkosh Area School District. I attended a plethora of elementary schools, South Park Middle and finally Oshkosh West. We were not the Wildcats then! I graduated from UW Oshkosh in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science-Religious Studies.

For over 20 years I have been involved in a myriad of Oshkosh community organizations and activities. I have been involved in advocacy activities with the Arc serving persons with developmental disabilities. I have had the opportunity to serve on the board of directors for the following organizations: Growing Oshkosh, Winnebago County Literacy Council, and the Salvation Army. I have been involved in the activities of the Stevens Park and River East Neighborhood Associations.

Currently I have put a considerable amount of time into the community busing solution that has been created through a community partnership involving the City of Oshkosh, Oshkosh Area School District and the greater Oshkosh community. We are hoping to roll out free public bus rides for all students in the Oshkosh Area School District boundary as of July 1, 2020.

Lastly, when I can, I provide housing advice through the Heroes of Oshkosh. This can be a challenging task but it is very rewarding assisting persons who are housing challenged.

Response to Question #1:

In general, I find great value in the pathway that was suggested. Our community ABSOLUTELY needs new schools. I think that the most important element to advocate for is making sure that the correct amount of staff are, at the new or consolidated schools, equipped innovatively to support the increase of students in the schools.

Response to Question #2:

At the moment I am fully behind a referendum that supports a consolidation plan, continued funding for technology and operations. The success of past referendums led to our district's valuable and quick response in transitioning to online learning in response to the most recent pandemic.

Response to Question #3:

So a product of the OASD, I struggle with the fact that many of our school structures are old and not the most conducive to modern learning, still in similar conditions from when I attended OASD schools. I struggle even more when I travel to nearby communities that have much newer and updated schools. We are living with bad choices of OASD school boards from 20 years ago.

Though I disagree with the sentiment that we have failed at long range facility planning, in my three years on the board I have been amazed by the amount of information that has been provided to the board to assist with some very hard decisions. I do believe that the current pathway allows for the opportunity to prioritize future maintenance and capital needs.

Response to Question #4:

I wish I would have taken more tech classes in high school!

It is a disservice to students to do away with tech education courses. The future employment and technical education opportunities that come from the skills learned in these courses allow for students to enter the workforce earning a steady income much sooner than students that go to traditional universities. I think there is a need to replicate partnerships that exist within our district and to learn from our neighboring district to see how they have enhanced their programs as well.

Response to Question #5:

So do lower expenses or emphasize on adding more students to our district? Or both? Which do you want us to do? I think the question should be what can we do to add more students to the district so that we can capitalize on the use of those dollars. Also let's think about the public dollars that leave our district that goes to private schools that the taxpayer can't see how that is spent.

Response to Question #6:

Given the circumstances that we are in right now, I feel that we are very lucky to have the additional revenue increase. It has allowed the district to be more responsive to quickly changing community needs.

Response to Question #7:

To be honest, and I like to be honest, the potential referendum that is being discussed for the November ballot should be a comfortable number to pass but I look at it as if we are just trying to get caught up for not going larger in the past. A referendum is an investment in our community. We need newer schools in our community! I would support a facilities referendum in the 150,000,000-200,000,000 range over several years.

