

## School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Please provide your thoughts on the following questions. Since these questions will be considered by the Board in the appointment to fill the Board vacancy, these questions and your answers will be made public.

1. Do you have any children in the district and do you see that as a strength if you are appointed?

I have 2 in school, and 1 graduate. I think I have had an opportunity to see how well the schools operate, and I think that is a strength.

2. What do you like and dislike about the Pottsgrove School District?

I am extremely impressed with the faculty, staff, and administration. They have all gone above and beyond to support my children. I was disappointed to see squabbling over various activities at the start of the pandemic. That seems to have settled down.

3. How much time (per week) do you have available to devote to this position?

8-16 hours, mostly on weeknights. Time not spent in meetings can be spent "studying". I imagine that the first several months will involve a lot of reading and research. I suspect the demands decrease - at least a little bit - over time.

4. Are there any evenings during the week where you will be unavailable to meet?

No. At least none that I can predict. I am the sole parent, and outnumbered, and sometime I have to take a break from other activities to take care of, and be with, my children.

5. Are you willing to sit on the Policy Committee to fill an open seat?

Yes. In fact that sounds like a very good assignment. I am a little surprised that it is open.

6. What do you feel is the role of a School Board Director?

The directors are charged with establishing or approving policies, planning for the future, hiring the superintendent, and controlling the budgets.

7. What are your strengths and weaknesses?

I am good at critical thought, I am an excellent troubleshooter, and a very good mediator. And I believe strongly in the mission of public education. On the other hand, my handwriting is not great. And I do, from time to time allow myself to become too invested in the outcome. I'm getting better about that.

8. What are your thoughts on board Directors using social media to communicate with the public?

If I were asked a few years ago I would have said it is a bad idea - looks like I was (mostly) wrong. For the most part it has proven to be an effective means of communicating with the public. I still think it is a double edged blade, but so far so good.

9. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health guidance from various agencies (MCOPH, PA Dept of Health, CDC, etc.), what do you see as your role as a Board member?

The board needs to gather as much information as possible, and analyze it critically. In addition to the agencies some attention must be paid to the administration. Above all else, the board must be careful not to cry that the sky is falling.

10. Board members must approve contracts including the collective bargaining contracts with our teacher's union. As a Board member, what would be your priorities in the negotiation process?

The impossible, of course - keep the faculty and the tax payers happy. When that doesn't work we have to find a balance that protects the interests of both groups. They may not be thrilled, but they will be taken care of. It is a very difficult balance.

11. What ONE experience in your life best qualifies you to sit on the Pottsgrove Board of Directors?

A number of things have shaped my interest, but I think my father's example might be the most important. He believed in giving back, and in leaving things better than he found them.

He was very active in the community, and we did notice. I understand the responsibilities that a director accepts, and their value to the community.