

RAHSAAN DUNN - Supplemental Questions

1. Please share some things that you consider the school district does well.

I think the Brown Deer school district is committed to the vision of a high achievement rate for its students, continuing to have a collaborative relationship with the residents and community groups, and finally, the district works well as a united team with the superintendent.

2. How is the district doing in promoting community engagement? What could be done differently?

I think the district does very well at interacting with the community and promoting the schools and student achievement. There are many great relationships that have been built from district interactions. I think we can always target new residents that are in our community and communicate our standards of and resources for the district.

3. How is the district doing in promoting parent involvement? What could be done differently?

I think it's essential for a district to engage parents in school planning, leadership and volunteer opportunities. This strengthens families' knowledge and skills to help support their child's learning inside and outside of the classroom.

4. The district has been operating with a historically low fund balance the last several years. How important is it to you to restore the fund balance to generally acceptable levels?

It's very important to operate your fund balance at an acceptable level. You want to have money set aside if a boiler goes out or if a roof needs repair without having to borrow the money to remedy those needs. Also with the uncertainty of state and federal monies, it gives the district a better way to manage.

5. Do you see opportunities to cooperate and share services with the village?

Yes, there are opportunities for the district to cooperate and share services with the district. Most importantly right now, we are running out of classroom space with the increases in enrollment. We may need to work with the village to temporarily use empty business space.

6. Would you support starting a breakfast program and why?

This is difficult to answer without proper research. If this is a need for our students, I would be willing to look at how this need is addressed in neighboring districts and try to develop a program that is sustainable for Brown Deer.

7. It takes a fair amount of resources to research fraudulent residency issues, what would you recommend the administration do about it?

This is difficult because you always want to do what's best for the student but on the other hand, we cannot accept someone who wants to cheat the system. There are two issues here, the first issue of families moving out of the district during the school year that we have to address. I think with the current address verification system, we can cycle through these students as we start a new year and help them transition to their new districts. The second issue is providing false residency information. As a parent I understand the want of to provide a great education and safety for my children, this is why I moved to Brown Deer. I think we have to look at what other districts are doing and try to echo those developments if they fit our needs.

8. There has been discussion about shifting the financial responsibility of the police liaison officer and police presence at school events onto the district. What are your thoughts on this?

I definitely would not want the district to absorb the financial responsibility of a police officer on campus or the cost for them at our events. In the schools, I would have to take into account the need for them and look at are we effectively using our resources such as our counselor and social worker. At school events, it would be dependent on the event, as police officers are a huge deterrent of out of control behavior at events that are high in emotion and they provide training and neutrality to keep events running smoothly. However, I would like to hear what others in the community have to add before I solidified my answer.

9. What are your thoughts on extending the school calendar?

I think we would have to look into how this relates to higher achievement. I think before we get set on extending the calendar, let's look at how we can maximize learning in the hours we have students now.

10. What are your thoughts on implementing a one-to-one technology initiative in the district, where all students have access to or receive a laptop or tablet device?

When you think of a one to one technology approach, you have to realize it not as easy as giving a student a computer/tablet and their achievement will increase because they have 24/7 access to the Internet. With an initiative like this, the whole culture of teaching and learning has to change. As the cost for this initiative is not limited to the device, we have to train our teachers on how to apply the curriculum using technology. Though I want students to be able to connect globally and be empowered to steer their own learning, the district would have to develop a comprehensive vision to support this change.

11. What is your position regarding Open Enrollment? Should it be increased, decreased, or remain the same – and do you support a sibling guarantee (any sibling of an existing participating student is guaranteed a spot).....any why?

In regards to Open Enrollment, I think we need to look at our historical growth data. I would prefer to operate close to capacity. However, numbers are ever changing. So depending on the outlook on projected data, students in the district, and the number of students our district can house, this would help me make a decision as to what I support and when I support it. The same for sibling guarantee.

12. What are the most appropriate ways to measure and reward the performance of our teachers?

I think you have to develop a metric that not only evaluates student performance, but focuses on the act of learning and includes things like classroom observations, student/parent surveys, lesson plan reviews and teacher self-reflections. To reward the performance of our teachers, we want to look at value-added measures to help distinguish individual, team and school contributions to student growth.

13. The Middle/High school recently received recognition as a “School of Character.” How can we draw more attention to all of the good things that are happening within our schools?

You have to lead with this message and live through it. In publishings, news media, and social media. You have to be relentless about engaging the community in the schools successes.

14. Discipline issues have been common with our schools, and these issues affect student performance. What are your plans to address this issue and help increase performance in both areas?

Discipline issues go back to using your resources effectively and how you respond to issues that arise. I think it’s a must to reinforce that the school is a learning environment and not anything else. Interruptions in the school are stopping students from learning and teachers from teaching. So I would address it by creating positive behavior support. There are studies that show that positive behavior support directly correlates with improved academic achievement.

15. What role does/or can the School Board and District play in educating our young adult students on upcoming elections, and getting them registered and ready to vote?

The school board and district should help to provide students a basic understanding of what their civic duties are. It is important for them to take action wherever they can to improve their economic, cultural and social development. Also it’s important for them to participate actively in events that affect them and to recognize the responsibility of joining in with others to create resources in their communities. We want them to know that they can help create a good society by educating themselves on issues relating to citizenship.