

AMY MACHGAN - Supplemental Questions

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

- **Active outreach to parents, community members, and local businesses who are present and engaged in the schools**
- **Ongoing fundraising through parent and community groups**
- **A plethora of co-curricular activities including academic, creative arts, and athletics**
- **Wisconsin Response to Intervention School of Merit**
- **Majority of students earning at or above State average of 22.5 on ACT test**
- **Advanced placement classes increasing in number**
- **I encourage anyone who would like to learn more about the great things happening in our schools by reading these pages from the district's 2014-2015 Annual Report:**
 - <http://pub.lucidpress.com/d7535ad0-bfc2-4a7d-8a1c-3f9873ff44e0/#w8~CpG4.ugpu>
 - <http://pub.lucidpress.com/d7535ad0-bfc2-4a7d-8a1c-3f9873ff44e0/#sdvwyDM1qoi->

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

The district does actively communicate important information and opportunities for involvement to the community. One of the best avenues for promoting community engagement has been the Our Brown Deer Magazine which highlights many of the good things going on in the district. I am hopeful that the Village will continue to co-invest in this quality publication. The STEP Program has been another successful program for the district and community.

There is room for further relationship building between the Village and District leadership. I would promote this as a first step in determining opportunities for additional community engagement.

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

There are ample opportunities to be involved and there are some parents who are very involved in the district, I happen to be one of them. I also happen to have a single full-time job, am not a single parent, and my educational experiences have been quite good. These things afford me the mindset and time to be involved in a way that I might not otherwise be. Encouraging people to do things solely based off our own experiences does not meet their needs or abilities. We can build on the already active parent base by understanding the obstacles keeping some of the parents away.

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 is both helpful and important for the school to have a healthy fund balance and I would support increasing the fund balance until the district reaches the 20% best-practice standard. Reaching that goal will take years because increasing the fund balance must be balanced with funding priority needs. In our own homes, we would not let our roof rot away in order to save money.

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

This is an area that I will need to further educate myself. As a practice, I would be considering any additional opportunities to enter into shared services through a lens of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness as sharing services is not a guaranteed benefit.

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

The district is currently providing simple breakfast items to students in need through a creative process which has nearly no-cost. If it was determined that providing a more inclusive breakfast program was in the best interest of student learning, I would be in support of looking more closely at the program which considering the following information: School breakfast programs can be federally funded if 40% or more of the school population is eligible for free/reduced lunch. Our student population is just above that percentage.

Starting a breakfast program may require possible changes to the school day which would then result in changes to the transportation schedule.

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

At this time, I honestly do not have an alternative suggestion as to how to best handle this issue. It is important for the district to investigate fraudulent residency issues in order to ensure that they taxpayers of Brown Deer are funding the education of Brown Deer residents. This will be an area that I will dedicate myself to learning more about.

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?

Aside from having an emergency professional in the immediate vicinity should one be needed, having the officer dedicated to the school also provided an opportunity for relationships to be built between the students and the officer. The reality is that there are currently more immediately pressing situations taking place in the Village for which the officers are needed. The Board will need to investigate whether the cost of funding a liaison officer is a priority for the district, if there are alternative means to providing similar benefits, and how these needs compare with other priorities.

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

Far too much review needs to take place at the beginning of the school year after such a long break. This long review results in lost time to learn new concepts. Extending the school calendar would help to address this issue. If the district were to further consider this change, it would be important to get current feedback from parents.

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?

I would be in favor of implementing a technology initiative that allows the district to assess the needs of each teacher, class, and subject. There are some teachers that would appreciate and be prepared to guide students using

a one-to-one device plan. Other teachers may prefer a different plan that would better suit their needs.

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?

Open Enrollment is an important program that gives parents additional options for their child's education. Unless our enrollment declines, we do not have the space to offer students from outside the district (including the siblings of any existing participants).

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

Student achievement is impacted by teacher effectiveness and a good deal of research has gone into the effort of determining the most valid, and fair systems for measuring teacher performance. Much of the research has pointed to a three-pronged approach using: student performance data, classroom observations, and feedback from students, peers, and students. Teachers should be rewarded for their hard work and dedication – through gratitude, respect, and financial benefits. One of the issues the district struggles with is being one of the lower paying districts in the area. This issue is ongoing as some of our teachers are lured to other districts with bigger bottom lines. I am interested in helping to understand this issue and determine how we can ensure we have the best teachers and are paying them fairly.

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?

Good news seems to travel the slowest and the least distance, doesn't it? All community members have an opportunity to be an ambassador for the district and the community. When we talk to our friends and family in other locations what kind of news are we sharing? Are we taking time to learn

about the positive things going on in Brown Deer so that we can share why this is a great community?

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?

My understanding is that (as in many situations) there are a relatively small number of students who are responsible for the behavior issues in the schools (especially at the Elementary School). That being said, it is important for there to be a certain level of decorum within the schools and between students and teachers. A parent approached me wanting to discuss this issue just after the Board candidate forum last week. I would be interested to start a wider conversation with parents on this topic so that we can work together to be sure we understand the scope of the discipline issue and determine to what extent it may be effecting student performance.

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?

Preparing students to be knowledgeable and engaged citizens is an important task for the District. In fact, the State Legislature recently passed a bill to mandate each student pass a mandated civics test in order to graduate. This requirement will be in place for graduating seniors in 2017. What a better way to get students prepared for this test than by giving them opportunity to learn about current political events and preparing them to make informed decision when shaping their local community, state and nation through voting!