

OSSTF DISTRICT 10

Lambton Kent District School Board Trustee Candidate Questionnaire

Q1: If elected as school trustee, identify your top three (3) priorities and explain their importance.

A1: After having spent 8 years on Municipal Council it is always key to keep the focus for your mission at the centre of all decision making. The focus must be on the students through sound policy making and adherence, funding and transparency.

Policy – Policy is at the heart of all we do in every business. Ensuring that the Director of Education has the appropriate mandate and is held accountable for performance excellence is critical to the healthy functioning system to educate our youth.

Funding – While not exerting a tremendous amount of influence over the funding model it is critical that School Board Trustees support expenses that are always in the best interest of the student experience and focus our most scarce resource towards front-line student education.

Transparency – Every governing body must be accountable to their stakeholders. The School Board is no different. Having spent 8 years on Municipal Council I understand the necessity to be open and transparent to the public. My time on the School Board will be marked by open and transparent dialog.

Q2: What would you do if you believed the provincial government's policies and actions were negatively affecting education in your community?

A2: Similar to my time on Council. Should I believe that Provincial policies are adversely affecting the education of our youth I would vigorously lobby with the assistance of my colleagues regionally and across the province to do the same.

Q3: What relationship do you want with the employees/their unions?

A3: Those that teach our youth are the backbone of our educational system. I would want nothing less than a positive relationship with the unionized employees. During my time on Council I fostered strong relations with the unionized employees and was endorsed by Labour each of the last two campaigns.

Q4: What kinds of support staff and programs do you feel are essential to meet the needs of children with special needs? What steps would you take to ensure these supports are provided?

A4: I currently sit on the Board of Community Living and understand the costs of providing service to those with special needs. To suggest that I know all of the support staff needs and programs required to meet the needs of children with special needs would be untrue however I can say with confidence that I have been a

strong voice to create a healthy, active and accessible community for the past 8 years on Council and would be not support cuts that would denigrate the educational experience of our special needs youth.

Q5: What strategies would you use to recruit new teachers for local employment opportunities?

A5: I have enjoyed 8 years on Municipal Council and am proud of the work that we accomplished to create a safe affordable community. Based upon my unique experience I would encourage younger educators to locate to Lambton Kent based upon the strength of the community, affordable living and the excellent education facilities that will be available throughout their careers.

DEREK ROBERTSON