

# 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: My top 3 priorities include:

1. Work with teachers, parents, government, and community stakeholders to solve the issue of declining enrolment in Chatham-Kent.
2. Work with the St. Clair Catholic district School board to integrate sports leagues at the elementary school level.
3. Be involved and volunteer with schools like I already do by coaching the BDHS cross country team. I want to attend school functions and help out where needed.

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

A2: That's a tough question because school board trustees have limited avenues to enact change. However, if a government policy or action was negatively affecting education I would write to my local MPP, and the minister of education about the matter. We are lucky that we live in a great country like Canada that is a democracy and therefore if any government policy adversely affected education in my community we as members of the community have a democratic right to vote and through voting we can enact change.

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

A3: I would want to continue with the good relationship I have with local teachers. Ever since graduation I have maintained connections with my former teachers. I have gotten to know teachers through volunteering at Blenheim District High School, as well as working at the Blenheim pool, and clubs that I am a part of such as the Golden Acres Curling Club. As well, I have family and friends who are teachers and will continue to support them. I am currently enrolled at Fanshawe college in the human resource management program and I am learning about Canadian Labour relations and I would love to work with unions. At Fanshawe I have professors who have worked in unions and thus are giving me key insights into the importance of unions and how they function.

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 think support workers are needed to help children with special needs. Working at the Blenheim pool and teaching swimming lessons to local schools I have worked with kids with special needs and their support workers and I see how important they're to help teachers in the class. Writing to local MPP's and the minister of education would be a way to ensure that support staff and programs for children with special needs is considered a priority. As well, when it comes to budget proposals I would ensure that programming and funding for children with special needs is not cut.

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

A5: I think that working with the municipality of Chatham-Kent would be essential. The municipality does wonderful work in community attraction and promotion that really highlights our whole area well. Wanting to live in Chatham-Kent and showing what is great about working and living in Chatham-Kent is key to attracting new teachers to the area. In particular the back to CK campaign is a great way to attract young people who have left Chatham-Kent for post-secondary back to our community. As a younger adult myself I love Chatham-Kent and would be happy to introduce people to our community and show them what is so great about living and working in Chatham-Kent.

**ERIC MONTGOMERY**