

- How will you champion the needs of special education students and students with IEPs?

The support of students with emotional and learning needs has particular significance for me. I am very proud to be on the board of directors for Camp One In A Hundred, a non-profit day camp for children with social cognitive challenges. Kids get to practice social skills in real life with the support of social workers, speech and language specialists as well as theater professionals. There are many great programs for students with different learning needs, not least of all the support in our schools that includes some wonderful specialists that I've had the joy of working with and our district's participation in the Exceptional Learners Collaborative. Still, the needs of students must be a consideration in every decision, not just those regarding special programs. Policies such as discipline that may be appropriate for neurotypical students may not consider the different responses and needs of those with emotional and learning needs. We must also improve inclusivity for these students, considering them every time we discuss diversity in our schools along with BIOC and LGBTQ members of our community. Students with learning differences are just as likely to be the object of both outright and more subtle teasing.

- If you are elected, where will you stand on implementing the JCARE approved State Board of Education's Culturally Responsive Teaching Standards when they take effect in 2025?

The Culturally Responsive Teaching Standards passed by the state do not put any direct requirements on local school boards and do not change the way teachers or administrators are evaluated. The standards only apply to higher education for those pursuing degrees in teaching within the state of Illinois. While the state Board of Education will "offer optional professional development on the standards to current educators," school districts will still have full control of what professional development they choose. Since there are numerous studies that learning is more effective when students feel respected, at ease and engaged, I would support such professional development.

- Climate change is a growing concern that needs to be addressed at every level. What ideas/programs would you propose to make D103 more environmentally sustainable and to educate our youth on the issue and solutions.

I certainly agree that climate change is a real and urgent problem. While the financial aspect would be a real consideration, alternate types of power such as solar panels should be investigated. I know there are tax incentives for individuals to invest in panels, we would have to look at whether there are any such programs for government and/or schools. Initial investment would be significant even with such a program and it would need to be discussed at length with the entire community.

- How would you balance the need to provide quality education with the need to respond to the local tax burden?

The current school board has done an excellent job financially. To have gotten the significant building updates that they did without having a referendum is impressive, and I would follow the lead that has been set. Fiscal responsibility is part of nearly every decision the board makes. The discussion should start and end with what is best for the students, but the review of cost versus benefits of every investment cannot be shortchanged. Just because we are a district fortunate to have more money available to us does not mean that it should be spent without great thought and discussion, including the input of the community at large.

- Please list the volunteer positions you've held within D103 supporting organizations (PTO, Music Boosters, School Board, Learning Fund, etc.) and your leadership activities related to them. (could list in the live intro if you would like)

My family's main involvement in the D103 community has been through Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. My husband has been, and continues to be, a leader in the troop. I served as Popcorn Kernel for the Cub Scouts for two years, a position where I was in charge of inventory, finances and trying to encourage the scouts to sell popcorn in order to raise the money for their activities for the year. I am currently on the board of directors for Camp One In A Hundred, a non-profit day camp for children with social cognitive challenges. And of course, my husband and I have both participated in the countless small volunteer opportunities that are available to us such as chaperoning field trips, supervising indoor recess, organizing remote school supplies, etc.

- As a board candidate what is your vision to make the teachers accountable to the quality of education our kids are receiving?

I feel that the teachers in our district are being held well accountable for the quality of education our children are receiving through reviews from the administration and an abundance of standardized testing.

- What is your position on adopting progressive ideology for teachers and the (CRTL Standards) Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Standards being voted on now?

Reading the Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Standards, I find no progressive ideas, but rather a method that will ensure that students and families of *all* backgrounds feel respected and comfortable in the school setting, including those that some might label "less progressive."

- Compared to countries like China/Japan and some European countries our kids are exposed to a very weak education system, as a board candidate, what is your vision to bring us in par with these countries?

Other countries have very different cultures from our own that their educational systems have grown from. We certainly cannot adopt those methods blindly and expect them to work for our students. I do, however, support the educators in our district in exploring educational programs from around the world to find those that can be adapted to the ongoing process of improving our students learning.

- What is your approach to supporting parents who want their kids in school full time with activities?

The best way to get our kids back in school full time with activities is for us to get the COVID-19 virus under control and keep our kids, our teachers and the rest of our community safe. We will continue with masks, keep appropriate distances and, hopefully soon, get a majority of our community and those communities we interact with vaccinated. To get to the point of being in school as soon as possible, and start cutting back on those requirements, we need everyone outside of school to be following the CDC guidelines consistently.

- What is your view of how D103 handled the pandemic this past year? In your view, was it (largely) successful or unsuccessful? What do you think could have been done differently?

The members of the current BOE could never have anticipated or planned for the situation they were faced with in the past year. They have had to balance the ongoing developments in science, the personal needs and fears of the variety of families in the district, and the unfortunate politicization of a health crisis. While there were some bumps in the road with coming up with a solution for our district, mainly in the areas of making parents feel heard and communication from the schools, I feel the board has done quite well under a great deal of pressure.