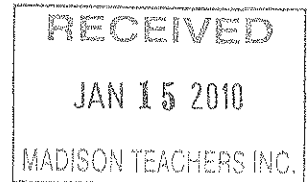


Both Mass



MTI VOTERS
2010 School Board Election Questionnaire

Please respond to each of the following questions. If you wish to add/clarify your response, please attach a separate sheet and designate your responses with the same number which appears in the questionnaire. Respond to the questions asking for narrative responses in this fashion.. *Please submit your responses to MTI Headquarters (821 Williamson Street) by, January 15, 2010.*

General:

1. If the School Board finds it necessary to change school boundaries due to enrollment, what criteria would you use as a Board member to make such a judgment?

I would look at 5 year enrollment projections in all affected schools as well as demographic projections, primarily the number of low income students. Ideally low income levels in each school should be between 35 and 60%. Keeping neighborhoods together so students could go to school with their neighbors would be a strong consideration, as would minimizing transportation costs. School redistricting should allow as many students as possible to walk to school and minimize the distance of bus routes.

2. If the School Board finds it necessary to close a school/schools due to economic reasons, what criteria would you use as a Board member to make such a judgment?

First, I would avoid closing schools because at this point the district and BOE need the support of the community, and I don't believe there are many more polarizing issues than closing schools. It would be a last resort, and the savings would have to be significant enough to warrant the disruption to the students and the families involved. It would also have to be a long-term solution so that families would not have to be moved more than twice during elementary and once during middle and high school. Other factors that could warrant closing a school: very low projected enrollment, no need for the space to house

other district programs, the energy efficiency of the building, savings in transportation costs. The cost savings would have to be substantial, and bus rides to the new school would have to remain under 45 minutes.

3. If the School Board finds it necessary, due to the State-imposed revenue controls, to make further budget cuts to the 2010-11 budget, what criteria would you, as a Board member, use to make such a judgment?

After evaluating a program and finding it to be ineffective or in the case of another replacement program's reaching more students, being easier to replicate, or more user – friendly for staff, then I would agree to cut a long-standing district program. Keeping cuts away from the classroom and maintaining small class sizes are a priority. The Board approved Strategic Plan calls for evaluation of programs. I would look at staff development and emphasize development within the building and mentoring by other teachers. No cuts are ideal. At this time I am waiting to hear from the administration with their ideas for potential cuts.

4. Even though MMSD employs a full-time legislative lobbyist, and is favorably situated in the Capital city, it suffered the worst reduction in State aid. What would you do to correct this?

I have and will continue to cultivate relationships with our local delegation. Providing them with periodic updates on the affects of the lack of funding on our schools, meeting with them alone and as a Board, making phone calls, sending emails are all ways I have tried to educate them about our situation. This school semester we will invite legislators to visit our schools and show them the realities of our needs and our changing demographics.

5. Identify specific MMSD programs and/or policies which you believe should to be modified, re-prioritized, or eliminated, and explain why.

As part of the strategic plan the BOE and administration will evaluate systematically programs in use to determine which ones are not effective at raising student achievement. A thorough evaluation will include staff input as well as looking at the disaggregated data. The program will also need to align with the new strategic objectives for the district. At this time I cannot say which should be changed or eliminated.

6. What should the District do to reduce violence/assure that proper discipline and safety (of the learning and working environment) is maintained in our schools?

We need to continue to ensure that PBS is implemented consistently within and among schools. At this time the majority of student behaviors are addressed through PBS, but in most schools the secondary and tertiary offenses and offenders are not yet consistently being handled. We must provide consistent expectations for staff, parents, and students as rapidly as possible so that the relatively small number of repeat offenders can be helped.

Relationship building and mentoring within the school help students to value themselves and their education. Positive relationships among students and between staff and students need to be made a priority. Families will become more engaged and have more of a stake in the school. At the same time reaching out to families and encouraging PTA/PTSO to concentrate on building the school community through shared activities is part of a long-term solution.

7. Do you agree that the health insurance provided to District employees should be mutually selected through the collective bargaining process?

 X YES NO

8. Explain any concerns/proposed solutions you have about the District's effort's to reduce the "achievement gap."

Closing the "gap" is the biggest challenge our district faces. The vote to begin a 4K program in 2011 is a big step in the right direction toward elevating our low income children as they enter kindergarten and giving them that needed boost to be ready to learn when they walk in on the first day of school. The strategic plan contains many ideas and initiatives geared toward raising achievement levels for all students by making curriculum and pedagogy more consistent across schools. This includes increasing the levels of culturally relevant practices, encouraging relationship building to bring parents and care-givers in to the schools, and individualizing education plans so that each student has the opportunity to see meaning and relevance in his or her schooling. Access

to advanced programming should be more open and recruitment and support programs for minorities should be a priority. High expectations must be communicated to all students.

9. Should planning time for elementary teachers be increased? If yes, how could this be accomplished? (see Contract provision attached.)

The planning time for elementary teachers is definitely a concern. I feel that staff do need more time to collaborate with team members and to process the initiatives that the district is implementing. We need for teachers to work in teams to be more effective, which requires collaboration time. Much of the staff development proposed for the ARRA funds and in the strategic plan includes collaboration time. I also feel that "in house" development lead by fellow teachers is very effective, for example at the first day back meeting, in the afternoon the teachers gave presentations in teams. After speaking with teachers, I heard a lot of pride and enthusiasm for other teachers' ideas.

10. Given that the Wisconsin Association of School Boards rarely supports the interests of the Madison Metropolitan School District, do you support the District withdrawing from the WASB?

At the moment I think we should remain a member. The Board is encouraging Maya Cole to pursue a caucus for large districts, and we are submitting more resolutions to WASB. One example is the resolution regarding TIF money. If WASB accepts this as part of the legislative agenda, we may garner more support in the legislature. I also think it's important for us to have a face at the meetings so that smaller districts cannot dismiss us as being "out of touch" or having an overt amount of influence. We are suffering from the state's laws just as every other district is suffering.

11. From what sources do you believe that public schools should be funded?

Ideally the federal government should be fully funding programs as promised, for example with IDEA. Since this funding is not likely to come through, the state needs to change the funding formula and not rely so heavily on property taxes. The recent proposal to add .01 to the sales tax is a good idea provided that if passed, the revenue would stay with

schools. Taxes paid by corporations have steadily decreased and a return to previous levels would eliminate many of the state budget problems.

a. Do you support further increasing student fees?

_____ YES x NO

12. Do you support the Wisconsin Alliance for Excellent Schools (WAES) initiative to raise sales tax by 1% to help fund schools?

 X YES _____ NO

13. Do you support class sizes of 15 or less for the primary grades?

 X YES _____ NO

14. Do you support:

a. The use of public funds (vouchers) to enable parents to pay tuition with tax payers' money for religious and private schools?

_____ YES X NO

b. The expansion of Charter schools within the Madison Metropolitan School District?

 X YES _____ NO

15. List MMSD staff and Board members from whom you do or would seek advice.

Superintendent Dan Nerad, Erik Kass, Sue Abplanalp, John Harper, Nancy Yoder, Bruce Dahmen, Joe Gothard, Amy Wederath, Cindy Price, Cathy Price, Cindy LaPoint, Paul Ulrich, Nathan O'Shaunessy, Ben Senson, Marcia Ouchakof, Rick Rogness, other teachers.

Board members Arlene Silveira, Marj Passman, Ed Hughes

16. Is your candidacy being promoted by any organization? If yes, please name such organization.

YES NO Progressive Dane

17. Have you ever been employed as a teacher? If yes, please describe why you left the teaching profession.

I was a teacher for the El Paso Independent School District. I left the teaching profession because I had my son, we moved to another state, and I wanted to stay home with him.

18. Do you support the inclusion model for including Title 1, EEN and ESL students in the regular education classroom? Why/why not?

Yes. Research shows that children who have special language or other needs are more successful in an inclusive classroom. High achieving children are as successful or more than in a homogeneous setting. Inclusion promotes tolerance and acceptance of differences and provides a real-world environment for the students. The inclusive environment allows students to learn from each other and take on roles that enhance their education. I want to see more inclusion and opportunities for all children in our high schools, better and more consistent modifications and differentiation that will benefit all students.

19. What grouping practices do you advocate for talented and gifted students?

Cluster grouping is already used in many of our schools and is one of the strategies to be implemented district wide according to the TAG and Strategic Plans. In my opinion and research shows that this method of teaching is a good use of staff time and resources. It allows the students to stay in a regular classroom where they can learn in an environment with all kinds of learners from all backgrounds. This setting encourages relationship building and social emotional maturity.

20. Aside from limitations from lack of adequate financial resources, what problems do you feel exist in meeting TAG students' needs at present, and how would you propose to solve these problems?

I believe that classrooms should be places where children with different learning styles should learn and be taught together. Clustering a group of children according to ability or learning style is one way to meet the needs of students within an inclusive classroom. Children are in school to learn not only academic subjects but also how to navigate the real world they will encounter when they graduate. This includes how to get along with people different from them selves. Our job is to teach interpersonal relations and social skills, and to help children to mature into civic minded adults.

We do need to do a better job of identifying children who do not have an advocate at home and helping them and their family understand the potential their child has to be successful academically.

21. The Board of Education has moved from the development of policy to becoming involved in implementation of policy; i.e. matters usually reserved to administration. Some examples are when it:
- a. Decided to hear parents' complaints about a teacher's tests and grading.
 - b. Decided to modify the administration's decision about how a State Statute should be implemented.

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administration the implementation of policy which the Board has created and the implementation of State Statutes.

YES NO

Do you believe that the Board should delegate to administration the implementation of State Statutes?

YES NO

Do you support the Board exploring a means to make their meetings more efficient?

YES NO

Do you support a merit pay scheme being added to the Collective Bargaining Agreement?

YES NO

Any changes would have to be fair and take into account that not all children are the same, and all teachers face unique challenges with each of their classes, and it could not be based on a one-time test score. Any change would be the result of a fair system resulting from input from all affected parties.

22. Do/did/will your children attend private or parochial schools during their K-12 years? If no, and if you have children, what schools have/will they attend(ed)?

YES NO

If you responded "yes" to question #21, please explain why your child/children attended private parochial schools.

Our daughter attended a parochial school in TN and for 3 years in Madison because we were advised by psychologists to separate our children (our son has autism) because of their close ages. After moving to Madison we realized that the benefit to our daughter of attending the public school merited our moving her. Both of our children attend Memorial HS and are thriving there.

Legislation

23. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the WASB to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to eliminate the revenue controls on public schools and return full budgeting authority to the School Board?

 X YES NO

24. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to prohibit privatization of public schools via the use of tuition tax credits (vouchers) to pay tuition with taxpayers' money to private or religious schools?

 X YES NO

25. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will maintain or expand the benefit level of the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act?

 X YES NO

26. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will increase the retirement formula multiplier from 1.6% to 2% for teachers and general employees, i.e. equal that of protective employees?

 YES NO

I don't know.

27. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will prohibit public employee residency requirements?

 YES X NO

28. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will eliminate and forbid restrictions to free and open collective bargaining for the selection of insurance for public employees (under Wis. Stat. 111.70), including the naming of the insurance carrier?

YES NO

29. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation which will guarantee free and open collective bargaining regarding the establishment of the school calendar/school year, including the right to begin the school year, via negotiations between MTI and the District?

YES NO

30. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to request the introduction and promote the passage of legislation to forbid the work of employees organized under Wis. Stat. 111.70 (collective bargaining statute) to be subcontracted?

YES NO

31. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation which will mandate full State funding of any State-mandated program?

YES NO

32. Will you introduce and vote for a motion to direct the Wisconsin Association of School Boards to seek passage of legislation which will provide adequate State funding of public education?

YES NO.

33. Do you support a specific school finance reform plan (e.g. SFN, WAES, Andrews/Matthews plan)?

_____ YES X NO

The plans change continuously, and at this time, I would support any relief. A full-blown overhaul would be fantastic, but seems to be an impossibility given the will of the legislators.

Your Campaign:

34. Are you, or any of your campaign committee members, active in or supportive of the “Get Real”, “ACE”, or “Vote No for Change” organizations? No.

35. Name of Campaign Committee/Address/Phone #/Treasurer. List the members of your campaign committee.

Treasurer: Carol Carstensen
Address: 2 Highgate Circle
Madison WI 53717

608-833-3166

Campaign committee: Kelli Betsinger, Andrea Wipperfurth, Fil Clissa