

**2021 DAVENPORT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Please complete this questionnaire by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 and submit your completed questionnaire via email to tpaone@isea.org. You may use a separate file or attachment for your answers. All candidate questionnaires shall be converted to a PDF file and made available on the Davenport Education Association's web page and social media posts, irrespective of whether you receive the DEA's recommendation or not. Any candidate who does not turn in a completed questionnaire by the date and time requested shall not be considered a viable candidate for recommendation. Your signature and date below indicate you understand these conditions.

Bruce J Potts

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(Candidate's name - please print)

(Candidate's signature)

9/24/2021

(Date)

1. **(CHALLENGER)** Tell us a bit about yourself, your background/experience, and your connection and/or interest in the Davenport Schools. What are your reasons for seeking this position?

(INCUMBENT) What are your reasons for seeking reelection?

I am seeking re-election because I feel that I have a lot to contribute to the district. My years of experience in the district provide a wealth of prior knowledge that enhances our decision making. I also feel that serving the community as a member of the school board is a positive contribution.

2. What are some major issues that you believe our school district is currently facing and how would you like the district to deal with those issues?

Finance is now and will be for the foreseeable future one of our greatest challenges. We must maintain a positive unspent balance. In addition, declining enrollment is a constant drag on our cash flow. We need to develop a very aggressive public relations campaign to highlight and inform our public of the advantages of being a student in our schools.

3. What is your perception of the relationship between staff and administration throughout the district? How would you characterize the leadership of the superintendent and other district and building administrators regarding engagement of staff, the DEA and the community at large?

We are in a very major transition period. New central office administration, new organizational structure, different lines of communication. Building principals have many concerns and questions as we proceed. I believe there is some work to be done by the central office to be more collaborative in their leadership style.

4. Do you think a teacher's or employee's pay or evaluations should be tied to student scores on standardized tests? What elements do you believe should be part of a teacher's or employee's performance evaluation?

I do not think pay or evaluations should be tied to student standardized test scores. It should be tied to the state standards and criteria.

5. Do you support or oppose maintaining a comprehensive master contract for all employee groups that includes all legal items that were previously included in the contract under the pre-2017 collective bargaining agreement?

I support maintaining a master contract as we have been doing.

6. How important is planning time for teachers in improving student learning? Do you think that teachers in the Davenport School District have enough, too little, or too much planning time at the elementary, middle and high school levels?

Planning time is essential for all teachers. I think our elementary teachers could use more planning time, however I do not know what that would look like. I believe middle and high schools have about what we can afford at this time.

7. Do you support or oppose a future ballot initiative to renew the SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) fund 1¢ sales tax for infrastructure needs of the Davenport Community School District (DCSD)?

I will always support the SAVE sales tax.

8. Tell us the current status of your campaign and future plans and strategies including any groups or efforts you are affiliated with a vested interest in the outcome of the school board election.

I am working to secure the endorsement of the Quad Cities federation of labor and have had the support of booster groups in our district. (Though they do not endorse any candidate) Obviously earning the support of the teachers would be a major help. There are also a number of people who are working with me on the campaign.

9. As we look to the future, do you support or oppose following CDC (Centers for Disease Control) recommendations for students and staff health and safety for in-person learning environments?

As you know I support mask mandates for elementary students as they do not yet have access to vaccines. I believe that because 7th-12th grades and all adults have had access to a vaccine, the masks should be optional.

10. Why do you think the Davenport Education Association should support you?

For the past 42 years I have worked in our schools. I have always supported the teachers I worked for and had a very positive working relationship with the D.E.A. I believe the district is more effective if we continue to work together as partners to improve our schools.