

**Keith Klein, Candidate for Monroe County Community School Corp. Trustee
District 5
Responses to questions from the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
For the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election**

1. What principles guide your decisions as an MCCSC trustee?

Since the founding days of the United States, education has been largely a local (or community) concern. The local school board is a uniquely American institution that has made public schools flexible and responsive to the needs of local communities. Your School Board functions as a policy-governance body whose principal employee is the MCCSC Superintendent. We should support our Superintendent broadly without micromanagement. The school board represents a continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making in education. Members focus on:

- Give voice of our citizen constituents to the school Corporation;
- Advocate on behalf of students;
- Represent the school corporation to citizen constituents;
- Shape school district goals and adopt operating policies that support overarching goals.;
- Ensure proper levels of funding from revenue sources and oversee financial affairs of the district in a fiscally prudent manner;
- Assuring systematic review and evaluation of all phases of the Corporation particularly in light of the current COVID pandemic.

2. What is the board's role in helping navigate the school year in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic?

The social and economic effects of COVID-19 prove to be severe and touches every corner of the country including the MCCSC. As you know MCCSC plays an especially important role during this period. Education is in the middle of a national emergency that requires our continuing support. The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the schools' operations in several important ways. Students and parents want safe in-school instruction. Equally important, they want key services such as instruction that are difficult to provide in many cases outside of the school setting. The School Board and Corporation must be vigilant about such things as:

- School opening and closing plans;
- Ensure our schools are properly maintained to limit the spread of infection including adequate levels of personal protective equipment for students, faculty and staff;
- Monitor both community and school infection rates and implement a range of operational adjustments given environmental conditions;
- Provide accurate education, information, and guidance on preventative measures to our stakeholders that include the community, faculty, staff, students, as well as our union representatives;
- Ensure the functionality and efficacy of our distributive educational processes;

- Ensure the proper level of food security even during extreme conditions of a school shutdown;
- Continue to monitor our funding sources to ensure that we have adequate levels of revenue to support our operations. This is particularly important given the depressed tax revenue to our local and state governments.

Finally, we must deploy our professional interventionists and preventionists and education coaches to ensure that our students – and especially our at-risk students – are learning and persisting in this very chaotic environment. Extended school closures and hybrid or remote learning often increases student drop-out rates, thus we need to ensure our students are adequately learning and persisting given our current environment.

3. Other than the pandemic, what are the top three issues that MCCSC faces, and how will you address those issues as a trustee?

Aside from COVID-19, the top three issues include selecting a new superintendent; focusing on financial resources given the reduced revenues from state and local governments; and ensuring the Corporations continuity during this next school year. I bring many strengths to the School Board that include:

- Longtime community leader;
- Assistant professor in the community college (retired);
- Value education;
- Know the issues;
- Long experience working with children both in educational settings and an International Youth Organization;
- Impartial with an ability to see multiple points of view;
- Excellent advocate for students, citizens and the school corporation.