

**Larry DeMoss, Candidate for Richland-Bean Blossom Community School Corp.
Richland District
Responses to questions from the Greater Bloomington Chamber of Commerce
For the Nov. 3, 2020 General Election**

1. What principles guide your decisions as trustee?

I have always tried to make decisions based on getting the relevant information and trying to weigh the consequences on the people who may benefit from, or who will have to endure them. I do believe that the school corporation works best when the superintendent is empowered to make most decisions and execute them with the active support of the school board. Of course, recognizing that the superintendent's position is as steward of the community's interests, the board is responsible for always evaluating the superintendent's performance. On balance, all of the Board's decisions have to benefit students as much as possible with the most effective use of the Corporation's resources.

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

COVID-19 has already forced school's to examine their operations, and some of the changes that have already occurred are likely to affect the way students experience their education long into the future. The board needs to be sure that the policies are consistent with the changing needs of students, including facilities, technology, and educational programs. The pandemic has forced teachers and administrators to innovate in the way the classroom operates, and some of those innovations are likely to give students opportunities that their predecessors didn't have, especially as our STEAM initiatives and similar concepts become part of the fabric of the R-BB system.

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

Public schools are always underfunded in Indiana, and I will support continued efforts to secure funds from alternative sources to support our students, such as the ROI grant and other contributions.

The number of talented students choosing to pursue careers in education has been decreasing for the past decade, and it will continue to be crucial that we can compete for the dwindling number of top teachers. R-BB is an attractive choice for young teachers just graduating as well as those who choose to move from other districts. We need to do all we can to maintain that advantage by keeping the working environment as positive as possible and keeping our salary and benefits as competitive as possible.

The demographics of our community have changed and likely will continue to change as the development of the I-69 corridor unfolds. I want to make sure that all members of the community continue to feel that RBBSC truly is a central part of that community, whether they are descended from the original settlers, or if they just arrived last week.