

**Sue Wanzer, Candidate for Monroe County Community School Corp. Trustee
District 2
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?

I've had the opportunity to work with several boards and superintendents as I've gained experience, perspective and developed my own board style. What most guides me is consideration for what is best for all students in terms of curriculum, whole student, climate, and safety. I'm intentional in my focus with all of these. I:

- Explore how equity and the common good are affected
- Maintain respect for and trust in staff and the professional expertise of the Superintendent
- Explore all information and ask as many questions as it takes to understand all issues. In particular, I:
 - Ask myself: "do I have all of the necessary information?"
 - Ask for evidence

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

With so much information – and even mis-information – coming from countless sources nationally and local, our role is, in part, to educate ourselves in order to make the best decisions we can. The board also has an important role in serving as a conduit of information between the community and Superintendent.

We must seek out expert opinion from professionals in health, science, and medicine, as well as education. At the heart of it, our role is to help the Superintendent craft a plan that best serves our MCCSC community.

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

1. Superintendent search, selection and transition. After a history of frequent superintendent turnover, we now have had a solid and professional leader who has provided stability for almost 10 years. As our current superintendent prepares to retire, the process of selection and the resulting transition must be a priority. Since our board has four members who have yet to complete their first term, my familiarity with this process

will become ever more vital. It will be critical that our selection be someone who has the highest credentials, feels comfortable in Bloomington and MCCSC as well as someone with open and transparent communication, puts students first, and believes in shared leadership. I have worked with this process, with staff, teachers, parents, students and the community; my experience, insight and proven willingness to seek input will help guide that transition.

2. Funding for the 2022 budget and referendum. We need to create a referendum committee soon, engaging the community and educating all involved regarding the need and the benefits.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic MCCSC, and other school corporations, will lose funding. It is predicted that Indiana will collect less tax revenue which means school corporations will receive less tuition support. As voucher funding for private schools and charter funding is allocated from state coffers first, public schools receive allocations only from the remainder, we need to reexamine our budgeting to account for less tuition support from the state. I pledge to gather all the information I can – from our Director of Business Operations, our superintendent, the Indiana School Boards Association, among others – to understand the potential implications of budget reductions moving forward. We already know this will be a difficult task; I have demonstrated my willingness and ability to take on the difficult conversations, seeking input, perspectives, and expertise. My priority is, and will continue to be, to avoid laying off teachers and staff.

3. Equity. My tenure is highlighted with work aimed to enhance equity and access, including leading the creation of domestic partnership benefits, advocating for LGBTQ training for all teachers, implicit bias training for board and staff, and racial equity and justice programming. However, I am well aware that we still can, and should, improve. To that end, I will continue to work with community organizations for social justice and equity and ensure we hire a superintendent with the same priorities.