

CANDO Board,

Thank you for the reminder. Here are my responses to the questionnaire.

1) What experience do you have with Batavia Public Schools' gifted services and what knowledge do you have about gifted education in general?

My family and I have had experience with gifted education, including the gifted program in the Batavia Schools. I am willing to elaborate with anyone interested in having a personal conversation. Regarding gifted education in general, I have read overview material, but have not studied the subject in depth.

2) What is your vision for gifted education in this community?

The ideal situation would promote an academic environment where every student can reach his or her potential throughout their school career. On this path, every student should be engaged, challenged and propelled along the way to encourage their optimal outcome.

3) What issues do you believe BPS101 needs to address in its academic programs and course offerings so that students can reach their full potential and be college or career ready by the end of their tenure in Batavia schools? What changes would you recommend?

I have a few ideas regarding curriculum, classroom organization and professional development that I believe would help our district. However, I know that I am not an expert in gifted education; I do not presume to have all the answers. Yet, after looking at the current structure of services, I believe a few organizational changes would help:

1. The Board of Education should take the lead and set the direction for gifted education in the district through collaboration, policy and evaluation.
2. Officially recognize an advocacy group, like CANDO, to interact with the board and district staff regarding the gifted program.
3. Standardize gifted services across the elementary schools and research programs to introduce to the middle school beyond accelerated math and enriched language arts.

4) If elected, what criteria will you use to evaluate proposals to maintain or develop the existing gifted services available to students in BPS101?

A reasonable plan for short term evaluation would be to test gifted students according to the same method that originally identified the students as gifted. A successful gifted program would maintain or enhance outcomes for these students along these metrics.

Various measurements to evaluate the long term effectiveness of the gifted program could include number of AP credits earned, standardized test scores, average quality or strength of college admittances, and other potential measurements related to student production.

Ultimately, the means of evaluation should be agreed upon among the board, a gifted coordinator and the advocacy group.

Thank you, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve you and our district,  
Bill