

Michelle Olache

CANDO Questionnaire

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

I have no experience with Batavia Public Schools' gifted services or knowledge of gifted education in general other than that I believe some of my own children would qualify as gifted, and I instructed them at home.

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

I believe that gifted children, as is true of all children in the district, should be instructed in a way as to reach their own individual potential.

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?

From reading the CANDO website and from listening to CANDO parents' concerns, I agree with them that that all gifted services across the district's elementary schools should be coordinated, so that a child in one school would be receiving the same services as a child in another school within the district. I also believe that a real "flesh and blood" teacher should be teaching all children even if it is a "satellite class" broadcast via the Chromebook of a teacher in another building teaching the students. Because there are few accommodations for gifted and advanced learners at the middle school level, I would like to see more services offered there. These services could take the form of advancing a student to the next grade level in a subject or having a teacher guide deeper learning. It could also perhaps mean that a gifted student on occasion helps others to learn something because explaining something to someone means you have a true understanding of the material. I would also like to see a staff member trained in our community's resources so that parents can learn about opportunities for their children, e.g., Fermilab, apprenticeship types of opportunities, classes offered through Waubensee Community College, etc.

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

If elected, I would like to hear input from parents and teachers of the gifted and academically advanced students. I would also listen to the comments of the administration. I would then look at everyone's recommendations and see how feasible these are based on constraints due to scheduling, ability of teachers to diversify learning, and finances, balancing these criteria with what is best for this group of children.