

Cathy Dremel

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

Although I am confident this was not the intent, I am uncomfortable describing in any detail my personal experience with gifted services in the district. To do so violates my children's privacy and brings their experiences into the campaign. That said, I have extensive personal experience with gifted and talented services in BPS101 and have been extraordinarily pleased with the options provided for my children. Like all children, gifted and talented students have specific learning needs that can be addressed through collaboration between parents and the school.

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

I have been very happy with the gifted/talented services my children have received. At the elementary level, services included differentiation, flexible grouping and small groups. The three gifted specialists have worked to support and expand offerings at the elementary level, and each year students have had greater opportunities for an education that meets their specific needs. Middle school offers enriched programs in math and lit/lang at every level, and I am happy that there will be an opportunity for more 6th graders to participate now that we have had a successful first year at the 6th grade level. Finally, the phenomenal growth in the offering of honors and AP courses at the high school show a commitment to helping students learn at the highest possible level. Furthermore, I would fully expect administration to continue collaborating regularly with all advocacy groups, including gifted and talented.

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 believe the district is constantly assessing whether our students can reach their full potential. Our Curriculum and Assessment Advisory Council (CAAC) has an excellent process for assessing our current offerings to ensure the best possible experiences are available to our students. CAAC also oversees the process of new course additions, and is always looking at their process to determine if changes or improvements can be made to the process. Also, this year, the Citizen's Advisory Committee's focus was on non-core offerings with the intent of examining what skills and experiences were essential to student success after Batavia. By always examining whether our students are college and career ready, and making adjustments where necessary, the District's mission of "Always Learning, Always Growing," is clearly at work.

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

Like every decision I make as a Board Member, the most important criteria I use to evaluate proposals is the advice of the highly qualified professionals that we employ in the district. I depend on them to make recommendations about best practice and the district's direction. Then I refer to the district's strategic plan and evaluate if proposals are within the mission, vision and values that are embedded in the strategic plan. I also use my own research, and questions, concerns and communications from various stakeholders to form questions about proposals to ensure that I fully understand the recommendations of administration. Specifically with gifted and talented services, I would expect the district and its collaborative groups to be using the NAGC standards to guide its services to our students.