**TEN BOARD OF EDUCATION QUESTIONS**

**2023 Candidate Jerri Webb**

**1, Why are you running for the Board of Education? If elected, what will be your priorities?** I am interested in serving on the Board of Education so that I can learn more about our current operations as a district and work toward identifying opportunities for improvement. I would like to be part of the continuous evolution of our district in a positive and productive fashion. As a Board Member, my first priority would be learning. As a parent and community member, I first need to understand more about how and why things operate the way they do today before I can influence change. I am interested in providing a variety of opportunities to our students and focused on retaining faculty and staff members who build vital relationships that keep our children connected and engaged with their educational experience.

**2, What particular experiences or skills have prepared you to serve as a board member?** I have experience serving on the Board of Directors for local organizations to include Chenango United Way, Sherburne Area Little League, and United Way of Mid Rural New York, both past and present which provides me with an understanding of how Boards serve organizations in different capacities. As a recent graduate of the Leadership Chenango program, I have had the opportunity to explore the services, resources, issues, and perspectives currently affecting Chenango County. I have professional experience with servant leadership in both union and non-unionized work environments as well as experience working within a scrum framework that allows self-managing teams, learning from experience and adapting to change which are key components to our district’s success. I am a parent, directly connected to the current student experience in our elementary school and invested in the success of our district.

**3, What is a school board member’s role and responsibility? How does that differ from the role of the superintendent or administration?** A school Board Member’s responsibility is to embody the school’s vision while setting the priorities for the district to achieve goals, evolving and/or establishing new policies to achieve a productive work and learning culture and to evaluate the district operations. The Superintendent’s role is to lead the district in day-to-day operations, identify needs in the district, collaborate with the school board to ensure that policies are translated into action and ensure that goals are achieved.

**4, What is the best way to address differences of opinion on the board or between the board and administration?** The opinion of every individual involved in the situation should be presented in an open and transparent discussion where all parties are respectful and professional. Every voice is important and brings value from different perspectives. Once all perspectives have been heard, the board should have enough information to define potential solutions and vote on a decision that will resolve the conflict.

**5, What should your school district do to better prepare students as citizens?** Our district should identify opportunities to teach and practice common life skills such check writing, balancing an account, typing and cursive writing skills. These skillsets are beneficial for all citizens in both personal and professional settings.

**6, What is the role of schools in teaching children about topics such as sex education, cyber-safety, wellness, and bullying?** Learning begins at home, but schools have a valuable role in complimenting that foundation. Schools have a unique opportunity to provide high level overviews of concepts and can link in discussion around topics like sex education, cyber-safety, history, wellness and bullying as they relate to specific classes, or times of year when the class working to achieve specific outcomes. Schools should provide information and allow students a safe space to think and share experiences while encouraging open-minded consideration of all perspectives.

**7, What are your thoughts on your school districts programs for special education students, English Language Learners (ELL), and gifted students?** I am not directly connected to our district’s programs for special education, ELL, or gifted students at this point, so I have a lot to learn in these areas. I am aware of our support for students through Individualized Education Plans and believe that developing the collaborative process between school and family is key to success. Our faculty identifies potential deficits early on with students, but there is room for better communication with parents based on personal experience. I am also aware of our partnerships with BOCES to support special education students and appreciate the collaborative network that is in place.

**8, What do you see as the major issue(s) facing your school district? Public education?** As a parent in the district, I have witnessed talented and valuable faculty and staff members leaving our district. It is important to retain strong talent in our district to build continuous relationships with our students and families. I do not have the background information about the challenges we face in trying to retain employees or the current steps we take, if any, and that is one of my interests in becoming engaged with the Board. Another major issue facing our schools is safety. As a parent in the district, I would like to understand more about the procedures that exist for our school to respond to safety concerns.

**9, How would you determine your budget priorities?** As a Board Member we are accountable to propose financially responsible recommendations that will support continuous education, provide new and valuable opportunities, and ensure that the environment we provide for our students is the best possible within our means. I would determine budget priorities to balance our finances across learning that occurs in the classroom (traditional and firsthand) with the learning that occurs through extracurricular activities such as athletics and clubs.

**10, Do you have specific suggestions for improvement in our district?** I would suggest that we incorporate the life skills mentioned previously in our classrooms – check writing, balancing accounts, typing, cursive writing. I would encourage our faculty, staff, and coaches to build mentoring relationships with our students as those relationships keep our students and families connected to our school.