

Doug Lloyd  
Zone 4  
dlloyd@cambrian.ca

### **Section 1 – Accountability**

**1. In your opinion, what is the role of parents in the Board's decision-making process?**

parents are responsible for their children, and as such are the primary advocates for their children. They are also the primary stakeholder in the decision making process along with the students themselves.

**2. If you are elected, how do you see your role as a trustee in the decision-making process?**

The Trustee's role is presently being diminished by Bill 177, as well as a loss of the sense of relevance of the trustee. The trustee must fight back against the province to re-establish our role as the parent's primary advocate in the system, and to help preserve, protect and enhance our community schools.

**3. Do you believe that trustees should serve as intermediaries between parents and the Board and/or their school (when all other avenues have been exhausted)?**

Yes

**Please explain.**

**4. Do you believe the Board's decision-making process could be more transparent?**

Yes

**If yes, what measures would you propose to improve the Board's transparency and accountability?**

web-based reports, broadcast meetings, regular parent involvement nights at the board. reserving one night per week for school council and/or community work. At present – there are meetings most evenings thereby not allowing time for community and council.

**5. What do you believe should have greater weight in the decisions made by trustees: the advice of educational professionals or the input of parents and communities?**

Input of parents and communities

**Please explain.**

I think it depends on the particular situation. In matters of board governance and ensuring compliance with the law and the education act, often education specialists and professionals provide legal and legislative advice to trustees.

In areas of service to children, students and what the community wants – obviously, the parents have a far greater weight.

**6. This past year has seen an increase in in-camera (closed-door) committee and Board meetings. As a trustee, would you undertake to ensure that in-camera meetings are held only when necessary to protect the privacy of individuals?**

[no response]

**Additional Comments**

In camera meetings are also required to protect the board from legal actions, and to ensure that preferential information is not released to bidding companies. Other than that – I think more openness is essential!

**7. Last year, the Board reviewed its Alternative Schools program and its Secondary Gifted program. Despite strong stakeholder support for these programs, Board staff recommended that they either be closed or eventually phased out. As a trustee, what kind of information would you seek and what kind of questions would you ask in order to come to a decision when staff recommendations are opposed to the views of the community?**

I believe we need more urban planning and demographic information. I also need to know how much and how often community groups, special interest groups, parents and educational associations have been consulted

**8. Good decision-making requires good and comprehensive data which is shared with all public education stakeholders. What will you do as a trustee to ensure that Board reports are released to the public in a timely fashion and contain accurate information?**

I have repeatedly asked for access for the public to all reports both electronically as well as in person. I also feel that information should be available at all schools. I have been encouraging this idea.

**9. Teachers and support staff who work in the classroom every day with students are well-acquainted with student needs, yet are not permitted to contribute to the public discussion when changes to programs and services are under consideration. Do you believe that the experience and knowledge of the professionals in the classroom should be better represented in the Board's decision-making process?**

absolutely

## **Section 2 – Educational Issues**

**10. Given the chronic under-funding of education, what new ideas would you bring to the table to address the Board's ongoing financial challenges?**

more community involvement, more lobbying of Queen's park. More publicity around the direct effects of the underfunding. Closer work with the unions. Working with the city to cost-share on other items.

**11. It can be a challenge to meet the demand for French Immersion while maintaining a strong, viable English program. How important do you think it is for the Board to respond to the ever-increasing demand for French Immersion in this region?**

Important

## **Additional Comments**

I do not believe we can ignore the needs of english programmes or focus on FI to the exclusion of special education or other needs.

**12. Do you favour the Board's revised student transfer policy that restricts students' ability to transfer from their neighbourhood school to the school of their choice?**

[no response]

**Please explain.**

the question was put in a perjorative way (if someone says "yes" it seems like they are in favour of restrictions. As a trustee of an high school which has suffered tremendously under the old transfer policy, I believe that we have not struck the right balance. however, the OCDSB has a stated policy of strengthening our community schools. I think we need to come up with a new balance. I do not believe we should allow the high school and primary schools in my zone to continue to suffer from overcrowding or under representation.

**13. While the Ontario Ministry of Education is encouraging school boards to integrate students with special learning needs into the regular classroom whenever appropriate, it recognizes specialized classes as one of a range of options for exceptional students. At present, the OCDSB provides specialized classes for students with autism, Asperger's syndrome, developmental disabilities, giftedness and a number of other exceptionalities. Do you support the continued provision of specialized classes for students with these and other special educational needs?**

Yes

**13. a) If yes, what would you do to reduce waiting lists and improve student access to these classes?**

continue to lobby for more money, and to share costs with other levels of government to allow for improving student access. I think it is also very important to provide more choices for parents in their local community schools. There are those who have stated that we should reduce the salaries to teachers, assistants and ECEs as well as other support staff. I believe that this would not be advantageous to the Board or our students.

**13. b) If you answered no, how would you ensure that both exceptional students and their peers without special learning needs receive the support they need in order to learn and thrive in the regular classroom?**

[no response]

**13. c) When changes are proposed to special programs, would you agree that any proposed changes should first be evaluated through pilot programs with well-defined, measurable outcomes?**

[no response]

**14. Recent changes to program delivery at this Board have reduced access to specialist teachers in the arts, science, physical education, and other subjects, especially at the intermediate level. Do you believe that students are receiving enough subject specialist education in the elementary/intermediate years?**

No

Please explain.

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**15. At the same time as students have less access to outdoor education centres, research is showing that children need experiences in the natural world for improved learning, for their well-being, and to be informed citizens about the environment. Would you increase the role of outdoor education centres in our students' education?**

Yes

If yes, how?

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**16. The Alternative Schools program was reviewed this past year and found by the Board to have many benefits for students. As a trustee, would you ensure this program is continued and is extended to zones where it's not currently available?**

No

If yes, what are your ideas to make this happen?

I would much rather take the great ideas from the alternative programmes and send them onto our existing other programmes. I would not close existing programmes if we can at all avoid it.

**17. Ottawa receives more refugees than any other city in Ontario, has the second largest immigrant population in the province, and the first language of approximately one third of Ottawa residents is neither English nor French. Do you believe that the OCDSB is doing as well as it could to serve the needs of students and families that are new to Canada?**

No

**If no, what changes would you propose?**

### **Section 3 – Philosophy**

**18. Current trustees: Please give an example of something you did last year to further public education. Other candidates: Please name a specific effort you would promote if you were elected.**

I fought for D.Roy Kennedy. Even against the other trustees who claimed no changes would be impacted against our school. I have still not given up on our local school.

**19. What is your vision of education and its role in our community?**

education is our community. I think the management of education through the board is education does not work well at all! we spend too much time in board meetings, and not enough time is left over for our community