

Nancy LaCorte

1) What is your opinion of the outside review?

It was TUF that initiated the idea of the performance review and I ran on getting it passed. Despite strong opposition from my colleagues on the Board, I championed this initiative. I moved the vote that authorized the Administration to move forward on researching the review. It was important for the District to identify best practices, ways to work smarter and, hopefully, save money. The performance review was important for the new Superintendent to identify the District's areas for improvement as well as our strengths. This report, in my opinion, allowed him to focus on other initiatives.

While I don't agree with everything that is in the MGT Report I do support many of the findings. I am pleased that we were able to incorporate some of the efficiencies that resulted from the MGT Report into the current budget.

2) What is your impression of the performance of Mr. Seto?

I was on the Board that hired Mr. Seto. I was impressed by his attitude of accountability and data driven results. I also feel he brought a fresh set of eyes and ideas to Franklin Township and that our District could benefit from his experience on the NYC School District.

I believe he is honest and realistic. He has made great strides in achieving the District's goals: improving test scores, professional development, making our schools safer, community engagement, among many other initiatives. Ed has surrounded himself with competent, qualified people to move the District forward. He has put a new face on the school district.

3) What is your impression of the leadership of the BOE? Do you want to make changes?

I believe our current Board President, Eva Nagy, has shown tremendous dedication to our children and she has lead this Board for over a decade. We now have new challenges. I would like to see leadership that will allow for a Board that is more responsive to our citizens. Currently there is little sharing of information between sub-committees and other Board members, this deprives us from the benefit of the ideas others may have. When other

members are excluded everyone loses. We need a Board that will share ideas and look for compromise. It will take strong leadership to accomplish that.

4) Do you support the budget?

YES, I support the budget. We had an enormous financial challenge this year because we had a \$3.2 million deficit due to loss of revenue. Yet this is the first time in recent history the school budget has been decreased. This budget cut the number of teachers, many jobs and educational programs. If it weren't for the outside review we'd of had to cut more.

A budget is always a compromise between what you want, what you need and what you can afford. If you watched the March 31st budget meeting you saw dozens of our children speak about how upset they are about cuts.

Unfortunately we don't have the money to accommodate all their wants but I do believe we have met all of their needs. I've come to believe that there is no perfect budget but that this one provides a sound education while being frugal on spending.

If the budget does not pass additional cuts will have to be made. The only place the money can come from is further cuts in the classroom. For that reason I support the budget.

5) What changes, if any, do you wish to make in the school system?

I ran 3 years ago on: 1) the performance review; 2) alternative funding sources; and 3) community involvement. I believe I've made great strides in these areas and believe that we can go further.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW: Now that we have the review we need to move forward to implement it. For instance the Board needs to look more closely into some of the findings such as transportation. There are potentially millions of dollars that can be saved there. As a member of the Transportation Committee, I am looking for safe yet more cost effective approaches to Transportation.

ALTERNATIVE FUNDING: Resources don't necessarily come from the bank, they also come from volunteers. I applaud the High School for bringing in an

intergenerational volunteer program. I think that program needs to be expanded upon so we can match the volunteer's skill set and needs/wants with the appropriate role.

We need to look at revenue sources such as corporate sponsorships and corporate/community give-back programs as well as individual funding sources. There are also free programs and grants available that we need to put on our grant calendar. These alternative funding sources do not require any additional money and, in fact, take the burden off of the back of the taxpayer.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: For most of my adult life I have worked in a marketing and communications capacity. While on the Board I fought to have our meetings televised on Channel 14. Channel 14 now gives more access to our schools via the television.

Our schools are not solely the property of the students or the Board. Our schools are the property of all 60,000 residents of Franklin Township. It is the Board's responsibility to bring the schools to the public if the public can't always come to the schools. All of my initiatives are surrounded by community engagement.