

Teletha Brown

1) What is your opinion of the outside review?

The MGT assessment has highlighted some key areas of recent growth as well as areas of need within the district. For the information compiled by MGT to be most valuable, I believe that follow-up **action** is necessary. However, this action should be taken with careful consideration; many decisions require a multi-tiered approach. As a whole, the review was a much needed assessment of our strengths and areas of challenge.

Key areas in which I believe MGT has provided valuable guidance include:

Bringing technology to the activities of the Board of Education.

Evaluating the needs for career counseling at the high school facility.

Evaluating the discrepancies in the guidance department at the high school level.

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

The current superintendent has performed a commendable job in improving test scores across the district! For the first time in many years Adequate Yearly Progress has been made in many schools across the district. When Mr. Seto arrived we had schools classified as "in need of improvement", as of 2008 evaluations Franklin High School is no longer "in need of improvement". Mr. Seto's six initiatives at their core are centered around improvement of the school environment, encouraging and retaining quality staff and strengthening community relations, these key areas are echoed throughout the district and are valuable in giving a clear direction to the district.

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

I truly believe Mrs. Nagy is passionate and devoted to our students and our schools, her leadership has spanned more than a decade. Any service of that length will have its high points and valuable contributions as well as points that appear to be unmet challenges in hind sight. While the current leadership has remarkable insight into the history of this district, there is also value in new leadership and new approaches. Any efficient business model includes succession planning, I would be interested in seeing a succession plan where the transition of leadership would be seamless and efficient, to allow minimal disruption to the Board's function and its service to the district.

4) Do you support the budget?

I absolutely support the budget as should all of Franklin's concerned citizens. The budget is a result of careful review and difficult decisions made by the board and district staff led by the superintendent, Mr. Seto. This budget includes not only frozen administrative positions but new positions in the areas of Science and Guidance. The budget has made

the tough decision around needs for our students, such as late buses as well as needs for our staff in the areas of continued funding of professional training. As a whole I commend the district and the board for a budget that reflects the superintendent's goals particularly around encouraging a culture of learning through teacher training and curriculum revisions.

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

I am running to support our current district goal of encouraging a culture of learning, specifically in the areas of math and science. If America's students are going to be competitive globally we as a country are going to have to encourage innovation and creativity. The disciplines of math and science are key in building the critical thinkers that will take us into the lead over the next decade. The state of New Jersey will increase testing standards by 2016, Franklin Township has to begin preparing our students, **now**.

Similarly, competitive students require mentoring and guidance in order to successfully transition to their career choice, whether that career includes a college degree or vocation. As a candidate and parent, I passionately encourage and support greater partnerships between the district and neighboring businesses. The work experiences and relationships that our students will gain as a result of expanding these partnerships, will set them apart and give them a great advantage as they move towards their careers.