

Name: Bill Kress

Date: 5/12/2010

Please type your responses to the following questions. You may email your completed questionnaire as a word document or a pdf file. Your responses will be made available to members of Ossining Teachers Association.

- If elected/re-elected, what one thing would you hope to accomplish in the upcoming year?

A continued top priority is educating the whole child. I believe we need to continue the district's efforts from Pre-K to graduation. We have witnessed strong improvements in test scores as evidenced in the last school report card. I will continue to support our wide range of programs to ensure our student's success into the future.

- There are natural budgetary restraints when devising programs for schools (curriculum, instruction, class size, etc.) What do you feel is the school board's responsibility to both the students of the district and to the taxpayers? What do you envision as the best match between resources and needs so that Ossining's students can be provided with the necessary 21st century skills?

Taxpayer and student needs are balanced by listening to our administrators and staff and crafting a budget that allows us to provide our students with their essential needs while keeping focused on the economic situation we find ourselves in. I feel providing a top quality education may be the way from falling into a situation like this in the future.

- Why do you believe that the achievement gap exists and what direction would you want to steer the district in order to address this problem?

I am not sure why we have an achievement gap, but I know that the district has faced the issue head-on and is continuing to make efforts to eliminate it. I had the privilege of attending a Project Earthquake event this past Saturday where a prominent educator spoke about efforts and ideas to close the gap. Continuing to face the challenge will lead to solutions to eradicate it.

- As a school board member, what would you do to attract and keep the most qualified faculty and staff for the Ossining Schools?

To attract and keep outstanding faculty, such as we have here in Ossining, takes a commitment to outstanding education. We need to provide competitive salaries, but also highly desirable working conditions, meaning good staff development and good facilities to show that we value teacher's contribution to our student's education.

- What else (specific ideas, characteristics, etc.) should the Ossining voters know about you that would make you the best person for this position on the school board?

I am extremely dedicated to my responsibility as a Board member. I have worked hard and made difficult decisions. I have been unflinching in my support of educating our children in the best manner possible. I helped make key decisions regarding school re-alignment, budgets and other educational decisions. I will continue to serve with 100% effort.

- Do you support the proposed 2010-2011 Ossining School Budget? Yes _____ No _____

SED bars us from advocating for or against the budget. I did vote to adopt the budget this year.