

Hello

My name is Mike Marasco and I am running for the Caesar Rodney School Board. Both my wife and I are 1991 graduates of CRHS. We have three daughters attending school in the district. A junior at the High School, a sixth grader and an eighth grader both at Fifer Middle School. I have been a member of the Camden-Wyoming Lions Club since 1997, served as president in 2004. I was involved with the Town of Wyoming as a member of the Planning & Zoning committee for 13 years and was chairman of this committee for 7 years. I was elected to the Town of Wyoming town council and was eventually elected to the office of Mayor until 2010. I currently sit on the board of directors for the Delaware Grange Mutual Insurance Company. A local business person, I am president of Lawns Plus Inc, landscaping & lawn service, a company I started 31 years ago. I am also owner of Tre Sorelle Dolce ice cream stand in Wyoming for the past 6 years. And most recently started Bounce Around Inflatables & Games, LLC also located in Wyoming. I am hoping to be elected to the CR school board to help continue the excellence in academics and the strong tradition of pride that is Ceasar Rodney.

1. The boards role and responsibilities are to help guide the district financially and administratively and to effectively hire a qualified superintendent to run the school district.
2. An effective school board member should be looking out for the best interest of the student and making sure the student is getting the best education for each tax dollar spent.
3. If elected to the board, I will bring my years of business experience and a common sense approach on issues to the table.
4. My vision for education with the CR school district is to continue to prepare students for a successful, productive and purposeful on a global level by promoting caring attitudes and providing a safe environment, quality educational opportunities and opportunities that encourage the partnership of families, district staff members, students and the community.
5. I feel that family engagement is important strategy to improve district and school decision making. To promote this process, family engagement can be approached by: District strategic planning, school leadership committee's and events recognizing student achievement in both academic and extracurricular involvement.

6. To my knowledge, the Caesar Rodney School District is in full compliance with current anti-bully laws in Delaware. My first step is to ensure that all students and parents are aware of the current bullying, harassment and intimidation policies. Additionally, staff training and awareness are important components of any successful program. The safety of our students is very important and can always be enhanced by designating resources (personnel & technology) to address this concern. I would also ensure that support services, programs, and resources are in place to assist students who are bullied, harassed and intimidated.

7. My views on the state assessment and the role they play on: A) Student Achievement... The assessments provide individual feedback to students on state and national standards. B) School Performance... The assessments provide information to administrators, educators and parents on meeting state and national standards. C) Teacher Accountability... The assessments provide teachers with information on student learning and growth on state and national standards and benchmarks. While teacher accountability is important, it needs to be fair and comprehensive. Teachers have many forms of assessments they utilize as part of daily instruction to individualize instruction and meet student needs. So, we need to be careful with using one type of model in any teacher accountability system. D) Student Accountability... The assessments provide information on career and college preparedness, for the next grade level and progress on state and national standards.

8. I agree. Testing is essential to provide valuable information to students, parents, educators and administrators, but in my view, has become over burdensome in terms of time in schools. Often, multiple assessments are given covering similar topics. We should be preserving our valuable instructional time for our students and our educators.

9. As a board member, I would network with my colleagues at the local and national level to bring back the best ideas to share with those responsible for implementation. I would also ask that the staff share ideas with the board to enable us to support efforts and share articles and resources in order to advance our own professional development. It is important for all our students to have multiple opportunities to achieve.

10. I feel our district has been great stewards on allocating funding so that the money follows the child. As a

board member, I would ensure that this continues. With multiple elementary and middle schools, this is essential from our districts perspective.

11. During times of fiscal constraint, any programs related to the overall academic mission should take priority along with school safety initiatives. However, extracurricular and enrichment and remediation programs are all important to the total student success and have been the anchor of excellence of the Ceasar Rodney School District and should be continued. It is most important to maintain our community's trust both fiscally and academically to help secure the funding needed for the many successful programs underway.

12. Yes, I believe extracurricular activities are a necessary part of the educational process. Students benefit from strengthening the mind to promoting better social and time management skills.

13. Yes, subjects such as music, art, physical education, technology and foreign languages play an important part in a child's education. Promoting better problem solving skills, multi-tasking abilities and better fluency all result in better academic performance.

14. As a current non-board member, I am unaware of any changes in the districts proposed budget. However, if elected, I would like to make sure the district has a long term plan to set aside additional resources in a reserve account for technology.

15. Ceasar Rodney School Districts commitment to educational excellence is what binds the staff, parents, students and the community. We care about the skills our students are developing as well as the kind of people they are becoming. Developing the strengths of each individual is what makes our district successful.

16. As a current non-board member, the information available to me shows an educational gap between ethnicities based on the difference in proficiency between Asians and African Americans on the math exam and a readiness gap between Caucasian and Asians.

17. Ensuring the privacy and protection of student data is critical and can be accomplished by keeping abreast of current technology advances in this area. However, technology funding is also important from a classroom

teaching and learning perspective as well as a school safety perspective.

18. As previously stated, funding for technology is one item I would continue to focus on increasing.

19. As a potential school board member, I am a representative of the community. Elected to keep the best interest of the students a priority. Ensuring they are getting the best education for the tax dollar spent.

20. Three overall educational priorities that are important to me are: 1) To ensure the district continues to be a place where student achievement is emphasized and recognized. I would do this by ensuring this principle is continued at board meetings through student recognitions and student attendance at our monthly board meetings. 2) To ensure the district continues to listen to the community to meet student needs. This can be achieved as previously discussed by family engagement initiatives at the district and building level. 3) To not only have a superb academic environment, but students, families and educators feel safe and secure when they attend our many school events and functions. I would continue to stress at the budget level that funding for technology and school safety be maintained and increased if needed. These three priorities are important to me as a parent and will be important to me as a board member because providing excellence in education in a safe and welcoming environment is the foundation of our districts success and must be continued and emphasized.