



February 8, 2022

Andrew F. Nicholson

VIA EMAIL –

Re: FOIA Requests received 2/3/2022

Subject: All names and application answers for all applicants to the Oswego SD308 Board of Education Seat vacated by Ruth Kroner in 2021, and opened for application on Jan 3.

Dear Mr. Nicholson:

This letter will serve as Oswego Community Unit School District 308's response to your February 3, 2022 request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), in which you asked for the above referenced information. Attached is our response to your request.

To promote district transparency and assist others who may have a similar question, this responsive document will be posted online on the district's website. To access it, go to www.sd308.org and select *Our District > Freedom of Information Act Request > FOIA Request Responses>FOIA Requests Responses -2022>then select FOIA ID #22-08*.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

John Petzke

John Petzke, CFO
Freedom of Information Officer

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Last Name (Legal)	First Name (L	Do you meet all of the legal require ments below:	In your opinion, what is the purpose and role of public education?	Have you ever been employed by any school district (whether public, private, parochial or charter school)? If yes, what was your role?	Have you ever served on a not- for-profit board or advisory committee? If so, which one?	Why are you applying for the open SD308 BOE seat?
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2	Stamp	Zachary	Yes	To provide a safe and helpful environment for all children to develop to their fullest potential. Not just academically but all forms of health and safety.	No	Yes, i was on the Board for a Non- profit called One Last Race.	I want to make sure that there is a level-headed presence that will vote their conscience and do what is right for students regardless of whatever outside pressures are being applied.
3	Paustenbach	Kathleen	Yes	To educate our minor citizens of Illinois to the best of our ability	No	No	To be a voice of the parents and citizens of our community
4	Engel	Steven	Yes	To serve the needs of the community by providing education, and therefore opportunity, to children in the community, to enrich their lives by the teaching of fundamentals as well as broadening their horizons with the arts and other life skills, to imbue good character and citizenship.	No	I am an elder in the Presbyterian Church and have served on the financial/steward ship committee.	I have been involved in leadership positions in my church and in my career, and desire to serve in this capacity in my community. I have lived in Oswego for 13 years. I have had two children graduate from OHS and currently have two students there, and am interested in making our schools the best they can be for all students.
5	Perez	Luis	Yes	Public education educates and serves as a model for all students at all levels. Public education is the foundational base upon which students can learn social and emotional skills that will serve them as they and grow and develop into adulthood work and or higher education. Public education works hand in hand with the family unit of the student in a collaborative effort on behalf of the student. This "village" mentality although not perfect is one of the strongest more powerful gifts we can provide our students.	NA	Rush Copley Medical Center	I believe in volunteerism. It is important to volunteer if you feel you can be productive on behalf of the school district. I believe I can assist the school district as we work together for our students.
6	Heiden	Katie	Yes	To provide an equitable level of education impacting mentorship, guidance, knowledge, and the tools necessary to help young adults reach different levels of success in the workforce and desired career paths.	no	no	I would be humbled for the experience to learn how to better serve our students, staff and parents involving governance, what it takes, how far it goes and where gaps still exist to help promote change on equitable levels for different groups.

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7	Shoemaker	Lauren	Yes	The purpose and role of public education is to provide optimal learning opportunities for each individual student by making the curriculum accessible to all, providing differentiation to meet all student needs, and making the learning experience equitable.	I have been an	e No.	I am incredibly passionate about public education and making the school and learning experience a positive and successful one for all students. I care deeply about issues that face public education and would like to help be a part of the decision-making and problem-solving process. I plan to use my prior experiences with administration, teachers, students, and families to be a voice and advocate for the 308 community.
8	Reilly	John	Yes	To provide educational opportunities to all children of the community.	No	No	I have been a member of this community for 12 years. I care about the quality of education the children of this community get and would like to be able to help them receive it.
9	Faries	Stanley	Yes	I have a very expansive view of education and its benefits to society. I believe that public support of education should extend through the bachelor degree in college or its equivalent in trade training. I think it's a travesty that we are allowing so many college students to accumulate large debts to pay for their education. In my view, this should be our societal obligation to the next generation. I also feel that our education system should support development of non- academic skills for those whose find the traditional path to college doesn't suit them for whatever reason. Ultimately, I think public education should support the development of an individual's full potential for success and happiness through thinking, knowledge and skill development.	No	Yes, I was the chairperson of advisory committee that guided municipal- sponsored programming delivered through a cable TV channel. We worked closely with employees of the municipality to assist in the development of public interest TV shows.	These are trying times for BOE members and I wish to support their efforts to guide our schools through reasoned, informed decisions. I believe my past business experience will be useful in helping steer SD 308 through these difficult times.

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10	Sawicki	Donna	Yes	The purpose is to provide everyone with an education in which they have the right to obtain, and the role should be to provide equal and adequate academic teachings to allow students to go on to either continue their education or be able to work and participate in the community and society over all.	No	I am currently serving on the Policy & Legislative Committee	To take an active part in the decision making that affects my own children and other current and future SD 308 students.
11	Lightfoot	Brent	Yes	Communities, around the country are charged with a very important task, to provide education for all children within said community. A public education should properly educate our children in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, math, science, history and civics to name a few. Further, we place an expectation that graduates will be well prepared for life and ready for the next step in the journey of life. Students should be able to gain acceptance to colleges, universities, trade schools, vocational training and many forms of employment post graduation.	No	SD 308 School Board, Media Research Club of Chicago Past President, SD 308 Finance committee, Wheatlands HOA - Treasurer, Park 24 - Past President.	In my 8 years of board service to SD308, I have deep experiences in many important areas and can be an asset to the board by sharing knowledge and experiences including, but not limited to: budgets, bond re-financing, policies, goal setting, strategic planning, hiring, boundaries, facilities, crisis management and more. I feel an obligation to the community to continue to offer my expertise to help make 308 an even better district for all of the students. I chose not to run for re-election after my 8 years were up because I could not commit to living in the district for the full 4 years, and I believe in term limits. This special opening is somewhat different in that I can commit to filling the term and devoting the time, required to be an effective board member. Many issues return to the board after several years and I can offer guidance on why a past board may have made decisions at a certain time, offering the historical context and how things may have changed over time.
12	Cirone	Dominick	Yes	The purpose of public education is to help the student population develop the skills they need to fulfill their individual potential and goals. Public education also has a very important role in the advancement of society. Public education drives innovation that improves the quality of life for Americans and the rest of the world.	No	Yes-BPAC 308, PTAG 308, SD308 Finance and Operations Committee, SD308 Teaching and Learning Committee, Village of Oswego Planning and Zoning Commission	My experience working with SD308 Parent Groups, SD308 Advisory Committees and work on the Village of Oswego Planning and Zoning Commission should help the district and the Board. Those experiences will allow me to ask relevant questions, listen to different perspectives and help make decisions. I also have nineteen years of experience in large corporate finance in analysis and leadership roles. These experiences should help me quickly absorb financial information, project analysis and prioritization. I agree that the district needs to make diversity, inclusion and equity front and center topics. I want to work with fellow board members to enable and empower the administration and entire staff to follow best practices. I have always tried to be a champion for justice and would like to bring that passion to the SD308 Board of Education.
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14	Torres	Andrew	Yes	<p>The role of public education is to provide quality institutions that foster an environment of learning to enhance the education and development of the community's youth and provide the tools needed to succeed academically, develop skills for prosperous careers and develop good citizenry. The best way to achieve this is to have a quality education system from PreK through grade twelve. It is the primary investment into communities that not only helps develop children's social skills and educate them with histories and sciences but also brings together the larger community as a whole. A good local public education system builds new neighborhoods, invites and creates new businesses and develops students that prepares them with the knowledge they need to succeed in all future aspects including college, vocational schools, the military and for the rest of their lives in the communities they decide to call home as adults and the careers they find as their passions lead them.</p>	No	No	<p>As a student of SD308, from kindergarten through graduation, it was instilled into my character that the Oswego School District is the heart of the community. My passion for helping others and for learning has aligned my skills and interests into a way I can serve the Oswego community. I have lived as a student through trying times in SD308. I have attended merged elementary schools due to asbestos (Long Beach and Boulder Hill) and shifted from 8 periods in high school to block scheduling even including 6:30am PE just to take AP classes and have a free period for Music. I owe my love of learning to the teachers I had in SD308. This has taken me to undergraduate school at the University of Illinois not only undergraduate studies but also to continue through and earn my Master of Business Administration. I want to serve my community and give back to this school district as much as it has given me and why I love calling Oswego my home.</p>

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1	Last Name (Legal)	First Name (L	What professional skills/talent/experience/ expertise will you bring to the SD308 BOE?	requires a significant commitment of time (attending board meetings, co- chairing advisory committees, meeting with constituents,	Do you plan on running for the SD308 BOE once this term expires (in 2023)?	What are the current SD308 BOE priorities as you understand them?
2	Stamp	Zachary	I have spent the last 20 years working in a professional atmosphere. Managing people, preparing reports, data analytics. Very strong background in financial planning and decision making. I have a student in the district currently so i am acutely aware of some of the issues that have arisen recently and I am very capable of helping address most situations that could possibly arise.	Yes	Yes	Identify needs and policies to help manage and operate the schools that fall within the district Listen to the communities about what issues need to be addressed Budgetary Concerns
3	Paustenbach	Kathleen	Being a parent of four children in this district struct	Yes	Maybe	Fiscal responsibility, representing the community and keeping big government out of our school district.
4	Engel	Steven	I have run a successful small business (as a real estate appraiser) for more than twenty years. I have a degree in mathematics, with additional coursework in business and in education. I have served on committees in my church and with the Appraisal Institute. My references, including people from church and local Realtors with whom I have done business, would likely describe me as competent and knowledgeable, as well as easy to get along with.	Yes	Maybe	Budgets and spending are always main concerns. In our current environment (COVID), developing and recommending policies concerning health and safety. Staffing issues are a concern as well.
5	Perez	Luis	My leadership qualifications for the benefit of SD308 would include: •Proven People Leadership & Management •New Account Development & Growth •Strategic and Market Planning •Budgeting and Expense Control •Pro Forma, cashflow and Cap Ex Development •Change Management Expertise •Multi-National Experience	Yes	Maybe	1. Quality of education for our students and support for our educators. 2. Properly navigating the pandemic so that students and educators are safe while learning and working. 3. Overall finances - revenue versus expenses as we run the district.
6	Heiden	Katie	Our family comes from seven generations of learning differences, entrepreneurs, tradesmen and women, Artist, disabilities and storyteller's. I have experience in insurance, work comp, business, bookkeeping, marketing, photography, artistry, OSHA 10, real state, state food licensing, and special education from our families' generations of struggles with disabilities.	Yes	No	The structuring of plans to follow local, state and national guidelines for public education requirements. Connecting the school, administration and staff to resources necessary to carry out sd308's goals. Making sure goals are being met at an equitable level for all different groups to meet ideal performance goals.

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7	Shoemaker	Lauren	I have been an educator for a long time, in multiple districts and in multiple roles, so I have an understanding of how schools are run, the issues they face, and the needs of teachers, students, and families. I enjoy analyzing data to identify areas of need and finding creative solutions to meet those needs. I thrive when collaborating with others to help all students be successful.	Yes	Yes	One of the current priorities of SD308 BOE is keeping students and staff safe while also maintaining in-person learning during a pandemic. According to the SD308 BOE website, other priorities include adopting goals and policies to meet state and local requirements, providing resources to meet those goals, monitoring district performance, approving curriculum and new staff and salaries, and providing a district budget based on the district revenue.
8	Reilly	John	I have a professional sales and customer service background. I have worked with, managed, and negotiated with many different organizations and people. I have a strong background in team building and finding functional compromises.	Yes	Yes	We are in a financial crisis. Helping the district come out of that while effecting the quality of education and activities for the children as little as possible is paramount. Identifying alternative revenue streams and cost saving measures should be the largest focus of our district.
9	Faries	Stanley	I had a 40+ year career in the banking industry, the last twelve of which was spent with Old Second National Bank in Aurora. I retired from the role of Bank Treasurer at the end of 2019. That position included managing the Bank's investment portfolio as well as measuring and mitigating the interest rate risk that is inherent to financial institutions. So I believe I have financial experience that may prove useful to the District. Additionally, my experience in dealing with risks and uncertainty may help SD 308 navigate these currently difficult times.	Yes	Maybe	The Envision 308 strategic plan provides an articulation of the various priorities of the BOE. These seem well- developed and reasonable. I would support those priorities if chosen as a replacement member of the BOE.

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10	Sawicki	Donna	My background is in marketing and I have worked in a corporate setting as well as owning my own business. I have served on a home owners' association board in the past and I am currently an elected Oswego Township Trustee. From the research I have done so far, I don't see an incompatibility issue with this position. However, I have reached out to the IL Attorney General's office for confirmation on this, and I am still waiting to hear back.	Yes	Maybe	I think our current priorities are the staffing issues, financial issues and the well being of our students
11	Lightfoot	Brent	I'm uniquely positioned to be fully engaged on day one given my background. Additionally I consider myself an expert in school finance, bond issues, budgeting, population growth and long term planning. In my professional life I work in research. While that makes me good with numbers, I excel with applying insights to analytics. The why behind the numbers. I tend to ask deeper questions or possibly approach things from a different angle. I think that can be beneficial in the boardroom, to ensure that all aspects of a decision are at least considered. That makes boards stronger. Over the years on the board and in my personal life I've also gotten very good at thinking about what might motivate others, and it might not be the simple answer. Is the parent upset about the length of time his/her child will be riding a bus, or are they really concerned about safety but unsure how to vocalize it?	Yes	No	The Board has adopted the Envision 308 plan. It's a five year roadmap that guides the district in four main areas; Student Learning, Student Support, Finance/Facilities, and Community. Learning focuses around an emphasis on math and literacy for each student and working to identify problems early while finding ways to use SEL along with individual learning programs where necessary. Support follows providing safe schools, diverse staff and strengthening support through programs, technology and additional services. Finance focuses on balanced budgets, a long term maintenance program, and building a reserve fund. Community provides a path to work with stakeholders, universities, trade schools and community colleges to ensure 308 grads are able to compete and excel while sharing and gaining input from the community on the progress the district is achieving.
12	Cirone	Dominick	I have an MBA in Accounting and a BS in Finance. I have shown to be a team and consensus builder through my work with elected officials and administrations at the committee level. I am open minded and work well in interdisciplinary teams. I consistently look for ways to get to better outcomes and am able to find many missed variables in that process through dialogue and thoughtful analysis.	Yes	Maybe	To close the achievement gap while simultaneously improving the educational experience for every child through multiple and proper research-based initiatives. Create an equitable and productive learning experience. The district is also looking to increase their reserves while funding important initiatives in the short to medium term.
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14	Torres	Andrew	After graduating Oswego High School and attending Univeristy of Illinois, I have years working with data and analysis as well as working with the public in numerous roles through my career. In my role as a catastrophe property claims, I have helped families through trying times after catastrophic events such hurricanes and tornado events. I have experience with negotiations working with contractors while helping families during these processes. Through my career development risk management has become a primary function in my roles. I have an understanding of risk management with a specialty of education institutions both public and private. My experience and MBA education has provided significant understanding of the responsibilities and importance of proper leadership for the success and achievement of an organization. I understand that the stakeholders of a school district include everything from teachers, parents, local partners and none more important than the students.	Yes	Maybe	While COVID has taken over much of the public discourse, the main priorities for the SD308 board continue to stay unchanged. Ensuring sufficient funding and maintaining short term obligations continues along side the long term funding and fiscal position of the district. There is a teacher shortage across the nation and Oswego is not immune to it. Even while trying to maintain the turnover goals and reducing loss of teachers, there are still many open positions within the district. Achieving this also has to take into account the need to avoid an explosion in financial obligations and putting the district in a tough fiscal situation. Another top priority is the safety of the students while providing in-person education. Instruction in- person is the most effective method of teaching for students and to maintain the level of quality in the education during these trying times is vital to the continued success of the district and its students.

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2	Stamp	Zachary	Instrumental in creating the budget and pushing for property taxes that will cover the agreed upon budget that will provide the most equitable educational opportunities for all students.	school board governance exists to govern the people that have control over local school day to day administration. (This one i am not as familiar with)	No	
3	Paustenbach	Kathleen	Creating fiscal responsibility AND prioritizing our student needs.	One is an elected position that is suppose to represent the parents of this community and the other is a paid position.	No	
4	Engel	Steven	The superintendent submits a proposed budget to the Board (available for public comment), and after a public hearing, the Board votes on this proposal. The Board can amend the budget. The Board files a certificate of tax levy with the county clerk to account for the budget.	The school board is responsible for hiring the superintendent and other administrators. The administration sets the direction and makes the plans, and the school board advises and either approves or denies those plans, given input from the community	No	
5	Perez	Luis	Assist district leadership as they build the district budgets. Act as a partner and as an arbitrator to help the leadership team be successful in this effort. Taxes is one of our revenue streams so it must be administered and carefully audited so that the district can run itself. It affects all taxpayers, so transparency is required as we budget and build.	The school board governance team is there to advise and arbitrate in support of our school district as a whole, the families who make up the district, our educators and district leadership. School district administration is really our leadership team. They are the experts who keep the district operation with the support of the board and the community.	No	
6	Heiden	Katie	To not incur any further loss that would be detrimental for the school district. Being fiscally responsible in creating a sustainable budget by local, state and national policies. levying property taxes will be necessary to continue on going enhancements and cost for district 308.	The school board carries out local, state and national guidelines of governance through their volunteered service in their serving community and district. Why administration is put into place through employment that can reside outside of the village, town, or city. Thier defined roles of expertise are critical to carry out the guidelines in public school settings on a professional level from staff student to parent.	No	experience, to learn and serve on the board for our community. To advocate that even if you have disabilities and desire to serve your community then to do so by trying. For most of my life and the generations before me we generally get passed up on roles as this. We never really fit inside the guidelines of a standard education with our learning differences. So, for seven generations we have helped from the sidelines for friends, family and the businesses we know. I hope today by continuing to

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7	Shoemaker	Lauren	<p>This is one area in which I need to learn more. However, when I commit to something, I learn as much as possible about the subject so I can offer effective, knowledgeable, and creative solutions to the team.</p> <p>Allocating funds fairly and in a way that would most benefit the community should be important to all board members. The levy question can be different situationally but we should be levying every year. It is the only way to get access to the increased tax dollars the community has and will be generating. Unless we at some point create a surplus, not asking for access to funds that will help us close the</p>	<p>School board governance includes assessing district needs, creating goals and policies for their district, and providing a district budget. It is the role of school administration, then, to implement those policies and utilize appropriate strategies to meet the goals agreed upon by the board. It is the responsibility of the both the school board and school administration to ensure policies are being followed and monitor progress and performance towards meeting school and district goals.</p>	No	<p>I have 3 children that are in the district 308 school system. We have had a very positive experience and I am grateful for the opportunities the district has been able to provide for them. My goal as a school board member will be to help the team continue to provide students experiences that allow individuals to be socially, emotionally, and academically successful so they can each reach their greatest potential. I have the commitment and drive to dedicate my time to collaborating to make a positive impact.</p>
8	Reilly	John		<p>School board governance is more about funding, programs, and facility improvements. School administration is more about providing those funds, maintaining facilities, dealing with staffing and day to day functions of the school district as a whole. School board governance is an elected position whose focus should be representing the community and the needs of that community. The school administration is more about making sure those needs are being met and standards are being upheld.</p>	No	<p>I have children at all levels of schooling in this district. I am passionate about all types of kids getting what they need from education. I have volunteered in this community for 12 years and would love to help find the solutions that will maintain the excellent level of education the children of our community have enjoyed and deserve.</p>
9	Faries	Stanley	<p>Administrators must create budgets as they are the professionals who best know the operations of the District. They also are knowledgeable in potential revenue sources, including possible tax levies.</p> <p>Many times its is difficult align revenues with budgeted expenses. So the role of the BOE is to help establish priorities to meet the most preferred needs given available resources.</p>	<p>School Board members are the representatives of the community they serve. Since school districts must operate with limited resources, priorities must be established to allocate those resources among competing needs.</p> <p>BOE members' primary responsibility is to guide administration in the allocation of those resources, both financial and non- financial. The difference between governance and administration is one of oversight versus execution. BOE helps establish priorities, while administrators are the professionals that see that the priorities are carried out effectively and efficiently.</p>	No	<p>As background, I hold a Master's degree in Economics. I have been married 46 years and have three daughters and five grandchildren, three of which are students of the district.</p>

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10	Sawicki	Donna	The school boards role in creating a budget and determining the tax levy is what determines how much money the school will also receive from the state in addition to that provided from property taxes.	While it is the administration's duty to take care of the daily functioning of the schools, it is the school board governance that makes sure the administration is acting in accordance with current policies and laws and the priorities of the community it serves.	No	
11	Lightfoot	Brent	The board is not creating the budget, that is the job of the admin. The board is supervising to see that the budget meets the goals the board has created. If the board requests a balanced budget, then the admin should create such a budget for the board to adopt - required by the end of Sept each year. The levying process is simply the board approving the request for the taxes required to operate the district and deliver on the requirements of the budget.	The board creates the policies, goals and directions that the administration are then charged with executing. If the board created a goal to increase jr. high math proficiency from 30% to 40% by 2030 - the administration would then create programs and procedures to increase math scores, and using testing and other metrics to report progress back to the board.	No	Thanks for your time in reviewing my comments and thoughts. Again, given my high level of knowledge of SD308 I'm uniquely qualified to jump in and help lead the district as part of the team. I'd like to request that the next step would be for you to schedule time for me to meet with the board so we can continue this dialog.
12	Cirone	Dominick	School board establishes the priorities and approves the budget presented by the district administrative team. They also determine how much to levy. They can levy an increase up to 4.99% or CPI without a referendum. Beyond that, a referendum is required.	The Board guides. Administration executes. The Board passes a budget and the Administration carries out the specifics on how to run the District within that budget.	No	I have a strong commitment to the community and a desire to see all students succeed in a diverse and inclusive SD308. I look forward to working with all the Board Members in a productive way!
13			provide quality education to the students of the	making policy for the districts success and progress, as well as the		

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14	Torres	Andrew	community. To do this proper funding is required. With this comes the responsibility of making hard decisions in evaluating the costs of a quality education system. A significant cost of providing quality eduction come from salaries, benefits and long term agreements, commitments that must be met and fulfilled. The board must evaluate these expenses as well as the numerous other cost items and develop proper budgets within this context. Unlike businesses that can rely on manipulation of pricing, cost per unit sold, marketing investment and other aspects of the private sector, school districts main source of revenue is the local property taxes. It is the responsibility of the board to ensure the proper funding is provided. The decisions to use available potential tax revenues or to opt out of revenues available, which could impact future budgets, are tough but required as a member of the school board. Questions board members must answer as part of their responsibility to the citizens of the community include: What amount of increase would be decided upon for	administrative role to ensure that the policies and decisions are routinely tracked, progress is made, and that decision are made to continue progressing all while ensuring the continuing the function of the school district day to day. The importance of governance is to have a properly aligned governing body: one that puts the students first. While there are more stakeholders such as SD308 families, the teachers, support staff and even local business partners, it is the students that are at the center of all decisions made. When most think of School Administration, the first roles to come to mind are the principals, superintendents and other similar roles. These roles are vital to the proper functioning of each school and to provide feed back to the board to help maintain or enhance the function of their school. With this, the Schoo Board administrative function includes an array of areas such as budgeting, using the data available to properly forecast the needs of the district from teacher needs, enrollment, staffing and items up to an including the drivers education vehicles and programs. One of the most important administrative decision a Board can make is the placement of the superintendent. The board has the responsibility to review the activities, success and areas of improvements from the feedback of this administrator. A great example of both governance and administrative functions is the USD 308 Oswego School District Envision 308 strategic plan.	No	I am proud of being an OHS graduate of SD308, and have continued to work hard in all my undertakings. The importance of a good work ethic, integrity, community and compassion are character traits that were reinforced through my K-12 in the Oswego School District. My entire family values education and it would be my honor to have an opportunity to help this district continue to be an example of excellence.