

NOTE: Frances PULLE, Republican/Independent Candidate for Bethel BOE, was not be present at the October 30th “Debate”. Below are PULLE’S answers to PTO Questions. PTO questions have been revised for clarity, brevity.



1. How can we (teachers, parents, community) encourage learning?

Children are innately curious. This drives learning, inside/outside school. They do much of this independently, effortlessly when provided opportunity, resources. Experienced/qualified teachers WHO KNOW THEIR SUBJECT AND CAN TEACH IT are critical.

2. What are the schools (elementary, middle, high) doing correctly? What needs improvement?

There is a knowledge/skills gap at all levels, in all schools. Too many students (don’t) can’t read, write a simple declarative sentence, speak clearly and concisely, think critically. Too many students have alarming knowledge gaps in traditional subjects— history, geography, math, science, literature. Computer science, even.

3. List five vital safety measures from least to most disruptive.

\*Lock doors \*\*Screen all visitors \*\*\*Daily (random) police visits \*\*\*\*Drills (first aid, fire) \*\*\*\*\*Arm (some) teachers

4. How can schools encourage students to become good citizens?

Children learn by example. Adults (all of us) should labor to set a good one!

5. You are sending a newsletter to ALL Bethel residents. What three issues/concerns would you highlight?

Fictional newsletter would ask QUESTIONS since I would like to hear from THEM.

6. Why are YOU running for BOE? Why do YOU deserve my vote?

I am an educator. I have taught every age group from grade school to grad school. Have some idea where modifications are needed.

7. What factor(s) should count the most when rating a district’s schools?

\*Percentage of graduating seniors who complete a four-year degree in four years. \*Percentage of third/fourth graders who read at (or above ) grade level \*Percentage of district’s students who are ESL, Special Needs, live at (or below) poverty line.

8. How can students participate in the political process?

Students should study American History/Government, World History. They should follow/discuss current events. They might read our nation’s foundational documents. Teens could work for local candidates during campaign season.

9. How would you go about drafting the (school) district’s five/ten year plan?

\*Evaluate ALL technology for efficacy. \*\*Balance traditional (subjects) with “trendy”. \*\*\*Develop a “PATH TO EMPLOYMENT” for the NON-COLLEGE BOUND. Town meetings would encourage taxpayers to participate. A questionnaire would be sent to recent Bethel grads.

10. How can we insure our students are Bethel residents?

Redefine "guardian". Investigate guardian's address. Fine transgressors.

11. How can we meet the needs of ALL students—gifted, special needs, ESL— in a way that is economically feasible?

\*ESL students: Are they residents? \*\*SPECIAL NEEDS: This subset of students seemingly expands by the hour. Program must be evaluated in its entirety. \*\*\*GIFTED: Let's not shortchange our future doctors judges, senators. NOTE: THESE PROGRAMS DO NOT NECESSITATE INCREASED EXPENDITURES AS THE (UNREVISED) PTO QUESTION IMPLIES!

12. Should school 'start times' be modified?

No. This change would create havoc with existing schedules.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Pulle