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VOTE
NOV. 5TH





CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

ELECTION DAY NOV. 5, 2019

Lake Pend Oreille School District

Questions for Lake Pend Oreille School District Trustee Zone #4 candidates:

1. What inspired you to run for the school board?
2. What are three examples of successes for the school district? What are three examples of areas that need improvement?
3. LPOSD is seeking a permanent levy this election cycle. Are you in favor of this option? Why or why not?
4. The Greater Sandpoint area has seen a population increase over the past decade. How have those demographic changes affected rural schools within the district? How would you manage those changes?
5. How would you rate the school district's level of transparency with community members and why?

LAKE PEND OREILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE ZONE #4

Geraldine Lewis

Age: 52
Years of residence in county: 25 years.

Marriage/Family: Husband is Jim

Lewis, a native of Sagle. Raised four children through the public schools.

Education: Bachelors in Electrical Engineering.

How can voters contact you?: 208-290-7148. geraldine.lewis@lposd.org

--ANSWERS--

1. I have been a Zone 4 trustee for the past 4 ½ years and the commitment I have toward public education has only increased over that time. I also bring continuity and perspective to the School Board that is vital at this time. With a new Superintendent, I am the longest running trustee we have on the board. That experience is so valuable. Prior to being a trustee, I was involved in volunteer work in the schools that my four children were in: Sagle Elementary, Sandpoint Middle School and Sandpoint High School. I am also a board member of the Panhandle Alliance For Education. I see first-hand the importance of the entire community being supportive and engaged in the health of our schools.

2. The successes in this district are many:

1. Excellent teachers and staff
2. Our district ISAT scores have been above or at state average across all content areas
3. The Homeschool Academy



is a great example of how public education can fit the needs of all students in the district

Areas that need improvement:

1. focus on raising our math scores across the district
2. recruiting and retaining teachers
3. Continuing to communicate with all community members.

3. In August, the school board voted to add an indefinite term supplemental levy to the ballot and let the voters finally weigh in on this important issue. We have been hearing from the community for several years that they would

like the chance to vote on it. We've had a maintenance and operations levy in place for 20 consecutive years, being approved by the voters every 2 years. That is a lot of time and money spent every two years to renew what we all see as a critical part of our budget. I am in support of this ballot issue, because it allows the community to stabilize the current maintenance and operation funding. In this district we have a large geographical area with many small rural schools that come with added expense. We also have a commitment to continue our Career Technical Education programs and Advanced Placement classes. We are also interested in recruiting and retaining excellent staff in this district. These are all areas that rely on the funding provided in our existing supplemental levy.

4. Our district enrollment numbers have been slightly increasing over the past years and I think this growth is a reflection of the health of our area. The growth has been slow and steady, not creating a hardship in any one school. In fact, a few of our outlying rural schools still have low numbers, but it's my hope that we never lose those schools. They are such a vital part of the smaller communities. We also know that as more people move into the area, the property tax base increases, making each individual tax burden slightly less.

5. We are a very transparent district. We post all our financials and budget on our website, keeping it up-to-date. We have annual audits that show our fiscal responsibility and oversight is strong. I know that Superintendent Albertson is eager to meet with anyone in the community who has questions or needs more understanding of how the district operates. He has already met with many people in these first few months of his new job.

Tara Tribbet

Did not respond.