



2023 School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Kim Castagne

Please complete this questionnaire and return via email to OBEAPresident@gmail.com by 6:00 PM on Sunday, August 13th.

1. Why are you seeking a position on the Board of Education?

I have been involved with Old Bridge schools since September 2003, when my oldest daughter entered Kindergarten at Shepard. I recently resigned from my position as payroll clerk in Old Bridge and have taken a job in a different district. This has allowed me the ability to be able to hold a seat on the Old Bridge Board of Education, which is something I have wanted to do for some time. I truly love this school district and believe I can make a positive impact by working to make sure that OBTPS is the best for our students and staff.

2. What do you see as the top three education issues the Old Bridge Board of Education must address?

Unfortunately, there are a lot of significant issues the Old Bridge Board of Education must face regarding our overall approach in educating our children.

The infiltration of politics on our board of education, which can directly affect how our teachers teach, and our students learn. As board of education members, we need to prioritize the needs of ALL of our students, and do our best to drown out the negativity, misinformation and falsehoods surrounding our education system. The Old Bridge Township school system should be a safe place for all students to learn and grow into the best versions of themselves.

Our budgetary restrictions. We are an S2 district, still in the process of state aid reductions. We will need to continue to be innovative and collaborative in our attempt to maintain programs for all students.

An effective strategic plan moving forward, taking into consideration our budget, our diverse student population and our unique needs as a district.

3. What is your philosophy on the collective bargaining process?

The collective bargaining agreement is necessary to make sure that our teachers receive proper compensation, while continuing to do the job that they love. Educators don't enter into this profession for the money, but they need to be appreciated and compensated for the

incredibly important job that they do. It is so important that the district and the union enter into “good faith” negotiations.

4. Explain your understanding of the role of educational support professionals in our school community. What is your position on subcontracting or privatization of these services?

Our educational support professionals are essential to providing our students with the assistance they need to be successful. I am aware that in the past, there have been discussions about privatizing this valued group. If elected, I will fight against privatization and to maintain our ESPs as district employees. I truly believe they are the backbone of our district and outsourcing would not be in our best interest.

5. What else would you like the Old Bridge Education Association to know about you as you run for this very important office?

I have three daughters who have all graduated from Old Bridge High School. When my oldest began Kindergarten in September 2003, I joined the PTA at Shepard School. For the next 20 years, I was on a PTA board in almost every position, including Treasurer, President and Vice President of fundraising. I have been on the Old Bridge PTA Presidents Council for 18 years, including being the coordinator, co coordinator and Treasurer. I have also attended almost every Board of Education meeting for the last 12 years.

I was asked to be the parent liaison, working directly with the team that led the fight against a charter school coming into Old Bridge. I have an Associates degree in accounting and a Bachelors degree in finance. Between my education, my previous work experience and my years in payroll, I feel that I am a great candidate for the Board of Education because I understand how a public school budget works. Even though I resigned my position in March, I still remain very active on the Old Bridge Education Foundation as the treasurer. I love our schools and I want them to continue to be the best they can be for our students and our residents. A great school system benefits everyone in a town.

Kim Castagne

8/10/23

Candidate Name

Date

Once again, thank you for completing this survey. Best wishes on the upcoming election.