**AEA School Board Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name:** Beverly Velloff

**Home address:** 611 East 15th Street Alton IL 62002

**Phone number:** 3142022919

**Email:** beverlyvelloff@gmail.com

**Campaign Committee:** Friends for Velloff

**Campaign Committee Address:** same as above

**Campaign Committee Phone Number:** same as above

**School Board Experience:** 0

**Years on School Board:** 0

**Elected offices held:** 0

**Other School Board Experience:** beverlyvelloff@gmail.com

**Names of Organization that you are a member:** National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), National Council of Teachers of Science (NSTA), Learning Forward-Professional Learning Association, and Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM)

**Occupation:** Educator

**Education Information**

**Elementary School** Jackson Park Elementary, Brittany Woods Middle School, St. Louis County, Missouri

**High School** University City High School, St. Louis Missouri

**College/University or other education:** Coe College- Bachelor of Arts: Elementary Education, Minor Gender Studies National Louis University-Master of Education, Curriculum and Instruction Washington University in St. Louis-University College Classes; Education Webster University- EdS Educational Specialist Degree (Administration)

**Questions**

**How do you feel about the public education system as it pertains to you and your family's educational needs?** As a member of this community for 20 years and a mom of two Alton high schoolers, I am seeking a position on the Board of Education of Alton Community Unit 11 School District because I believe in the public education system!

I grew up in the public school setting and have been a public school educator of 25 years. I know that a strong school district is the backbone of a vibrant city. A strong school district cultivates graduates who are academically prepared, innovative problem solvers, and ready to be mindful citizens.

I am aware of the challenges and triumphs that students and public schools face. Students deserve the best education we can provide, and through a strong partnership among our educators, superintendent, AEA and school board members, the Alton School District can rise to be the regional standard.

**In general, how do you feel about public education?** Prior to being an administrator, I served the public education system as a math coach, math specialist, regional professional development facilitator and a classroom teacher. I believe in public education and all that it has to offer.

I feel that as an Alton Board Member serving the Madison County public education system, I will:

-Represent the entire community and NOT special interests or partisan political groups. I believe in the entire community, which includes citizens who may not have a direct relationship with the Alton School District.

-Focus on academic excellence for ALL students

-Prioritize support for social & emotional needs of ALL students

-Protect the district's financial resources

There are a lot of challenging events that are part of any PreK-12 education system and running for school board is an immense responsibility. I will always respond with honesty and integrity.

**What, in your opinion, are the strengths of our school district?** The Alton School District is a diverse student community with a higher than average teacher retention rate (88.9%).
The school district student population represents the community it serves racially/ethnically, socio-economics, and environmentally (rural and urban). The staff are committed to serving the district.

**What, in your opinion, are the weaknesses of our school district?** Academic progress is the number one weakness for Alton School District.

The district serves 5800 students and overall we fall far below the proficiency state averages:
ELA- 14.2%
Math- 13.8%
Science- 39%
According the results shared regarding the 5Essentials survey, the district is also below the state average connected to four categories of; effective leaders, collaborative teachers, supportive environment, ambitious instruction and involved families.

There are also currently three schools within the district that have been identified as "targeted" and one school with as "comprehensive" by the State of IL.

**Do you have ideas/changes that you would like to see instituted in our school district. Please explain.** I am dedicated to promoting quality student achievement opportunities for our students that allow for them to be competitive nationally.
I believe in including more of our local community partners within our schools to expand volunteer opportunities as well as high school internships, certifications, and apprentice options.
I am committed to educational equity. All students within our public education system should have access to a high quality education.