**AEA School Board Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name:** David Lauschke

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**Email:** dlauschke@cbbrownrealtors.com

**Campaign Committee:** N/A

**Campaign Committee Address:**

**Campaign Committee Phone Number:**

**School Board Experience:** 30+/-

**Years on School Board:** 30+/-

**Elected offices held:** No others

**Other School Board Experience:** dlauschke@cbbrownrealtors.com

**Names of Organization that you are a member:** Growth Association, Local, State and National Association of Realtors. Previous involvement includes United Way Campaign Chair 2 years and various committee assignments, Founding Member and former President of Alton Main Street., Boy Scouts of America, Growth Association Board of Directors,

**Occupation:** Real Estate Broker - Managing Broker of the Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors Alton office.

**Education Information**

**Elementary School** Alton - Irving, Rufus Easton, McKinley

**High School** Alton High School

**College/University or other education:** University of Illinois - BS & MS Finance

**Questions**

**How do you feel about the public education system as it pertains to you and your family's educational needs?** My entire family has participated in the public schools. My parents attended public schools in Chicago & Alton. Myself, my brothers and sisters all attended the Alton Public Schools. All went on to accredited 4 year universities. My children attended the Alton Public Schools and attended the University of Illinois. The Alton Public Schools absolutely prepared us to be successful with our future education and employment.

**In general, how do you feel about public education?** I am very passionate about public education. I think it is one of the bedrocks to a successful community. I would not have continued to run for election to the Alton School Board if I didn't feel so strong about public schools.

**What, in your opinion, are the strengths of our school district?** I believe what we have to offer our students academically is one of biggest strengths. There is something for everyone. From vocational to honors course. That doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement. There are various supports for students to help them be successful in future endeavors. Our buildings are in good shape now and for the foreseeable future. The various extracurricular activities and sports are important to overall success. I would like to think our staff provides a very important contributions to student success.

**What, in your opinion, are the weaknesses of our school district?** My biggest concern, at this time, is our ability to keep pace with competing district salary schedules. We have to continue to attract good teachers and staff to our district to be successful. Our current environment is very competitive and cutthroat, poaching teachers for surrounding districts. I don't feel classrooms are all staffed in an ideal manner. I am still very concerned about safety/discipline in the buildings. I believe the pandemic has only exacerbated the problem with behavior. I feel there has been a substantial learning loss that puts more pressure on teachers. I believe that our sense of collaboration is not what it should be with teacher input. I think these issues all merit more discussion.

**Do you have ideas/changes that you would like to see instituted in our school district. Please explain.** In previous years, the board has met with district staff to discuss what is happening in the schools. I have always felt this is the most important meeting of the year. The pandemic had disrupted that schedule. I feel these meetings give board members a better and deeper sense of what is happening in the classroom. This year we met with high school division chairs to discuss issues within the high school. I thought it was an eye opener for all involved. I would like to continue this in the middle school and the elementary level. These meeting give us insight to strengths and weaknesses, the good and the bad. Hopefully, we can find solutions as a group to change the bad. Everyone is under pressure and I think it is important for the board to hear what staff needs to be successful.

We have to step up our efforts to change student behavior and that will not be simple.