

# **DRYDEN SCHOOL BOARD**



**Candidate:**  
Brad Rauch  
32 Greystone Dr.  
Dryden,  
NY 13053

**How long have you been a resident of the area?**

My family and I lived in Ithaca for one year before moving to Dryden in 1999.

**What is your occupation? Where do you work?**

Manager of Contract Research for Quality Milk Production Services (QMPS), at Cornell.

**What is your feeling on the current budget? Do you support it?**

Without having all the facts behind each line item and every trade-off that has been made, it is difficult for me to criticize any one item in the current budget. On the other hand, I have concerns about whether the amounts allocated for curriculum/professional development, teaching supplies, and textbook replacements are adequate. The above-mentioned items are the tools teachers need to get their job done to the expectations of the community and I feel they should be given high priority. Furthermore, they are relatively inexpensive if you look at the direct benefits they provide to the children and the morale of the district.

**What makes you the most qualified candidate? How do you think that your experience in your career or volunteer positions will lend perspective to the school board?**

I believe the education of children is the single most important thing a community can do to better itself. My career in agricultural research is one of asking questions, defining objectives, gathering facts, and making decisions based on those facts. The productivity of any committee (or Board) is a function of its members and their ability to work as a team towards a common goal. I believe I am in line with the goals of our community and have the skills to pursue these goals through the BOE.

**What do you think is the role of a Board of Education official in shaping the future of the schools?**

To me, a board member is a person elected to represent the people within the district. Ultimately a board member must sort out the facts and use them to make informed decisions that are in line with the goals of the community. Listening to what the community needs and wants is the first step in this process. When an obstacle to meeting a goal is encountered, it is important for a board member to propose an alternative approach so that progress can continue. It is also the responsibility of the official to keep the community informed and justify his/her decisions.

**What are the significant issues (besides state aid) the district is facing? How would you approach these issues?**

Issues that are on the horizon include; the logistics of the building project, start time changes, curriculum alignment, the textbook rotation schedule, increasing state mandates, and the reading initiative. The building project will obviously have an enormous impact on the day-to-day happenings in the elementary and intermediate schools. Issues that arise will likely need immediate solutions and should focus on maintaining an environment conducive to learning. Discussions around whether to change the District's start times will likely be polarized. This topic will require a lot of public input since it could negatively impact the daily lives of many parents (e.g. work schedules). Curriculum alignment, textbook rotation and state mandates should be considered as a single issue. For example, our book purchasing cycle should be built around upcoming changes in state mandates. The reading initiative is certainly a step in the right direction and it is nice to see the district coming together to address the reading deficiency. Since a lack of emphasis on reading at home is highly correlated with a lack of transportation to school functions, I feel that more reading during school time and easier access to books outside of school will have a big impact.

**Please tell us about a specific goal for the district you'd like to achieve if elected. How would you help it come about?**

While I have personal ideas and opinions, I hesitate to say I will pursue any specific one. I feel a board member's job is to represent the people of a community, not implement their own agenda. I will say that my overall goal is to ensure that every student that graduates from Dryden School District has been given the proper tools to pursue their dreams. While they will likely confront obstacles in their future, the fact that they attended Dryden Schools should not be one of them. With that in mind, I have a specific interest in identifying areas that might need extra attention. For example, 63% of our high school students graduated with a Regent's Diploma, but only 38% went to a four-year college. In Ithaca, the numbers were 77% and 71%, respectively. I'd be interested to know what factors contributed to this split and if there is anything the District can do to close the gap. I would also be interested in knowing whether our graduates are being accepted to the schools they consider their first choice, or if they are settling for less desired schools. To me, these are good indicators of the job we are doing as parents, teachers and community members.

**VOTE**

**Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
(7am – 9pm)

**Dryden High School auditorium**