

**Answered by Zack Frangidakis.**

**What do you see as the major issues facing D4 and how would you propose addressing them?**

What I see as the one of the biggest challenges is making sure we are doing everything possible to ensure a safe return to school for all of our students 5 full days a week. Recently the Illinois State Board of Education changed the recommended guidance for social distancing in schools from 6 feet to 3 feet. Through the collaborative efforts of our intergovernmental agencies we have been able to vaccinate many of our teachers. This will allow us to accommodate more students in our buildings. More importantly the pandemic has led to learning loss and the district needs to ensure that we are taking advantage of any and all opportunities to close that gap. This summer D4 will be providing an in person summer school program for those students that need it. Finally it's important to acknowledge that students' social and emotional needs play a critical part in the learning experience. Remote learning has made it difficult for our teachers to build relationships with our students. We need to be mindful of the fact that some of our students may be stepping inside of our schools for the very first time and this can be a traumatic experience for some students.

**Do you believe that teachers should have a greater input/voice in district decisions that impact their work and their students?**

I believe teachers should have input and a voice in district decisions...however I also believe that our students and families should have that same opportunity as well. Its critical that the district and the board consider the impact on all three of these groups when making decisions.

**How does diversity, equity, and inclusion play a role in your vision for the community?**

My vision for the community is creating equitable and collaborative partnerships to better work together within and outside District 4 towards shared goals. I'm confident that with our strong intergovernmental relationships we will accomplish this vision. In 2018 in my current school district we worked with the National Equity Project to identify areas in our school district where inequities exist. It has been a rewarding experience and has led to meaningful changes. It's important that a district continuously evaluates current practices to ensure that they are equitable and meeting the needs of all students. Every student matters and its imperative that all students get the support they need. I would like to make sure that the district is continuing to allocate resources to those schools that need it the most.

Its important to clarify that equity doesn't mean equal for everyone. Equity means providing additional resources to those groups or individuals that need them.

Inclusion is one area where our current board has done a great job. Many of our parents are spanish speakers who do not speak english. Based on community input the board now has meeting minutes available in spanish on our website. In addition translation services are provided for members of the community who request board meetings.