

# League of Women Voters

## Candidate Questionnaire – Westerville Board of Education

### Candidate: Jim Burgess



**Education:** Business Management and Broadcast Operations degrees with Accounting Certificate. Graduated Cum Laude.

**Qualifications for Office:** Large business experience, I.E. AT&T and IBM. Created and managed multi-million dollar projects. People management experience protecting over \$250M in revenue. Global business experience spanning Accounting, Customer Service, Information Technology, Sales and Marketing departments.

**Campaign Website:** [www.forResponsibleChange.com](http://www.forResponsibleChange.com)

### What should the role of the school board be in relation to the superintendent and his/her office?

Voters choose Board of Education members to reflect the educational and budgetary direction they want their schools to pursue. The Board looks to the Superintendent, Treasurer and other staff for advice, and for the operational skills necessary to carry out its policies. A high degree of collaboration is essential in this process.

Board members have a primary responsibility to hold the district's administrators accountable for results, both operationally and educationally. Should results fall short, it is up to the Board to challenge the Superintendent to bring achievement levels up to expectations.

### What would you do to improve the school's financial stability?

Financial stability will improve significantly with the implementation of our "Students First" management model. This method, explained in greater detail on our website, calls for us to prioritize the classroom, where education ultimately succeeds or fails. At times when funds are limited, the education process experienced by the student, teacher and parent will be untouchable. Only secondary functions will be affected. If all three of us are elected, Luke Davis, John Sodt and I will protect educational integrity and end the spending practices which have disrupted programs and services. We will put our schools on a path to financial sustainability.

### If you had the power to change one thing about your school district, what would it be and why?

The thing I most want to change is the quality of the education our students receive. Instead of nearly 40% of our students needing remedial classes before attending college, let's have 40% testing out of college classes because they received such a great education in Westerville!

When we implement the Students First approach, we will work with our district's highly capable educators to reduce remedial rates, improve middle school programming, and end the practice of "teaching to the test." When my four-year-old daughter graduates, I want her to have the best education our schools can offer.