



Sandy Creek Central School District

Candidate Survey

Name: James Dowlearn

Address: 1511 County Route 15, Lacona, NY 13083

Education Background: Liberal Arts Jefferson Community College, 1990
B.S. Elementary Education, 1993 College of St. Joseph's, Rutland, VT.

General Background: I am the married father of two children who attend the district. I was born and raised in Sandy Creek graduating from Sandy Creek High School in 1988. My work experience includes employment at Head Start, a comprehensive early childhood education government funded pre-school program servicing low income children and their families; Ithaca Children and Family services working as Dispositional Alternative Program Case Manager working with children at-risk of out of home placement and their families to develop skills necessary for family units to stay intact; and most recently as a Technical Claims Insurance Specialist working out of Syracuse, NY for the past 17 years.

Are you presently involved in any community service activities? If so, please describe: I am a volunteer coach for the Sandy Creek High School Girls' Basketball Team, an Assistant Little League Coach, and an active member of the Sandy Creek Beagle Club.

What do you think that you could contribute to the Sandy Creek Central School District and the Board of Education? I am a fair and open minded individual who has the ability to think critically and analyze policies and procedures. My primary focus is to serve as a liaison between the community and the school district. I will advocate for equal opportunity and access to all programs and services made available by this district.

What is your Vision for the Sandy Creek Central School District? To develop a culture of mutual respect that includes the free exchange of ideas amongst community members, staff, students, and administrators in an open and transparent arena.

What motivated you and why are you running for the School Board Member Seat? My motivation surfaced originally as a result of my concern over the Pre K enrollment procedure that I feel is unfair and overly restrictive. As part of this involvement, and with my educational and employment experiences, it became evident that these qualifications would serve to favorably supplement the current panel and provide a unique, fair minded approach to this and many other issues presented to the board that impact the children and families of our community.