

*Board of Education Candidate John Britton:*

*How do you define leadership and how do you support good leadership throughout the school from Superintendent, to building administration, and throughout the faculty, staff, and even young people within the district?*

- First and foremost, I define good leadership as starting with accessibility. A person can be a great leader, but if they are perceived or are actually inaccessible to those looking to them, their leadership is ineffective. My plan is to be accessible as much as possible to support faculty, staff, and students in the school district. In my work experience, I have always followed up on accessibility with positive resolution of problems, and using communication to follow up on anything that is brought to me, have had success in developing positive business and professional relationships as a result.

*Why are you running for the board? Do you have children in school?*

- These two questions go hand in hand for me. I'm running for the school board in order to be involved in the educational system in which my children are involved. I have four children at APW: Ziva who is in Kindergarten, Priscilla who is in fourth grade, Benjamin who is in fifth grade, and Evangelynn, who is in seventh grade. My priority as a school board member would be to continue the positive strides that have been made at APW and make decisions that would benefit families in the APW community.

*What knowledge or experience do you bring to this position?*

- Having worked in the retail home improvement sector for over 20 years, I have extensive experience with team supervision, inventory management, financial report analysis, investigations, and other skills I use daily. I work with company management and law enforcement officials on a regular basis. Additionally, I am the father of six children, and one adult step child, so I am aware of the struggles families face with the challenges of educating their children. My personal education consisted of private Christian school, public school, and home school, followed by a liberal arts college education, so I have some experience in the various choices parents can make and the pros and cons of each.

*How do you promote communication and how do you define appropriate and effective communication?*

- In my work experience, I work alongside people in various levels of management in a district with over 1,400 employees. Communication is essential in order to achieve goals, as one person cannot get everything done. This begins with outlining a clear goal, and providing the tools necessary to achieve the goal. In the same way, the school board is a team, and communication is essential first between the team, outlining clear goals, but then communicating the goals and strategies to the faculty and community is

equally important. This again returns to the idea of being approachable, not only as an individual, but as a group as well.

*What ideas do you have to get more students involved in sports?*

- I currently have three children involved in Little League, and one involved in track, and am finding out the benefits of their involvement each day. Through the pandemic, I encouraged my children to get outside and be active daily, and although I personally am not very athletic, took them on outdoor excursions. The physical activity, sense of teamwork, and other qualities of sports are extremely important to our children. What I have found is that children do not instinctively "know" that they would be interested in a sport unless they try it...and usually they try it because an adult encouraged them to do so. My strategy would be to encourage our community's parents and teachers to expose their children and students to these benefits.

John Britton

"Truth at all costs." - Martin Luther