

**Davis Education Association
2010 Davis School District Board of Education
Candidate Questionnaire**

Name: L. Burke Larsen
District: 6
Street Address: 1776 W. 2475 S.
City: Syracuse, Utah 84075
Zip: 84075
Phone: 801 779-0124
Email: lblarsen2@msn.com
Website: Pictured Resume included

1. Please tell us a little about yourself and why you have filed to run for the Davis



L. Burke Larsen

Candidate for Davis County Board of Education Precinct # 6

General:

- Retired Air Force civilian
- Residence at 1776 W 2475 S Syracuse, Utah
- Married with five children and 18 grandchildren
- Objective, fair, friendly, decisive
- Interested in individual perspectives
- Strong supporter of public schools and teachers

Experience:

- Hercules Aerospace Company:1988-92
 - Managed regional marketing
- Hill Air Force Base 1965-71, 1980-88
 - Managed Missile Systems Div: annual budget \$750M
 - Managed major buying divisions
 - Negotiated and approved large and complex contracts
 - Supervised hundreds of employee
- Air Force Office, Thiokol Wasatch Div 1871-80
 - Managed AF contractor surveillance team including auditors
 - Approved contractor estimating, accounting and purchasing systems
 - Negotiated labor and indirect accounting rates

Education:

- BS, Utah State University 1963, Political Science and Economics
- Graduate MBA Studies, University of Utah 1967-71

I was appointed in December 2009 to fill a vacancy on the Board. I have served with a visible record and have visited dozens of schools, teachers, the business manager and other professionals to learn about our district, finances and the issues. I believe these months of service give me both a record by which to be judged and knowledge to serve effectively.

2. What kinds of experiences have you had with the schools in the Davis School District? (children in school, volunteering, etc.)

I have five children who are products of Davis Schools: Morgan Elementary, Kaysville and Fairfield JHS and Davis HS. My wife and I have volunteered including teaching in the spectrum program. I have a son teaching English at Davis High School and a daughter teaching Science at Central Davis JHS. I have volunteered to help my daughter.

3. What, in your opinion, is the main mission of public education?

To give every student a positive experience which equips them both in individual character, confidence and skill to succeed in life; reading is the most critical skill. The following is from one of my brochures:

- **READING IS THE LANGUAGE OF LEARNING.**
- **The single most determining skill for student success is to read at level in early grades.**
- **Forty-two percent of states use third 3rd grade reading statistics to forecast prison cell increases: students not at level.**

- **Elementary principals are tracking every student in reading with remedial intervention happening on a weekly/daily basis.**
- **Class room sizes have become an obstacle to student effectiveness; there is limited one-on-one Intervention both for remedial action and to support student excellence.**
- **School Boards face many issues of relatively low consequences compared to student achievement.**
- **The most important characteristic of a good school board member is to keep focus on the class room and the teacher/student achievement.**

4. Do you believe that public schools are adequately funded? If you do not believe they are adequately funded, what changes should be made to provide appropriate financial support for quality public schools?

We are clearly not adequately funded. We are under-supplied and over-populated as a result of this under-funding. The legislature is the key. We must tell our story with consequences of under-funding on student performance. Class room sizes prevent one-on-one remedial intervention and encouragement of excellence. Telling this story is very difficult but it must be engaged.

5. What do you see as the three most critical need/issues facing the Davis School District in the next five years? How would you begin to address these issues?

Student growth will continue. Money is the single, most critical issue. We must engage the governor and the legislature to meet this increased need.

6. What would you do to retain quality educators in the Davis District?

Pay is the issue here. If petitions to the legislature do not allow reasonable increases in teacher pay, the board should act with discretion within its authority.

7. What would you do to attract new teachers in the Davis District, considering the fact that the legislature this year significantly reduced the retirement benefit for future teachers?

Davis must have a track record of good treatment to its employees. This means competitive pay, administrative support and manageable class sizes.

8. If another voucher or tuition tax credit bill is introduced in the legislature, would you support another such effort, or would you oppose it? Why?

I walked the streets to get opposing signatures against the last voucher effort and would do it again. The arguments of funding relieve and class-room reduction to the

public schools by vouchers is hollow. I view vouchers as hurting public schools financially.

9. In 2010 Sen. Margaret Dayton sponsored a bill (S.B. 77) that would prevent school districts from providing Association leave (paid substitutes) for teachers who serve during the school day on district committees such as negotiations. It would also prevent the school district from paying 50% of the DEA President's salary. Would you favor the continuation of the current Association leave policy between the school district and the DEA, or would you oppose it?

Favor.

10. In your opinion, is there anything the Davis School Board and District Administration could do better?

That performance is best which is measured. The school board agenda is often filled with matters which must be considered but which are of little consequence to the class room. Board meetings should use more time on academic performance. This is mostly just to cheer-lead the academic advancement of students. However, Title I elementary schools face great challenges in getting student at reading level. The board must practice remedial resource intervention to help this huge challenge. We do not review it in a timely, recurring manner to know that intervention is needed. We should.

11. Is the Davis School District too large to be responsive to its patrons and the community? Would you support splitting the school district? Why or why not?

I do not think it is too large to be responsive to its patrons. I would not support splitting it. Contrarily, at the state level I would support consolidating smaller district for cost savings: one building, one superintendent, staff, etc.