

1) Name: Chris Stanton  
Address: 40W603 Atchison Dr. Hampshire, IL 60140  
Township/County of Residence: Rutland/Kane County  
Date of Birth: December 1958  
Years living in District 300: 15+ years

2) Have you had or do you currently have school-age children or grandchildren? Yes

If yes, please check the type of schooling that your children receive(d):

- 3 Public School in District 300
- Private School in District 300
- Public School outside of District 300
- Private School outside District 300
- I home school my children
- Other (please explain)

3) With regard to question #2, please explain why you chose the venue of education for your children that you did.

My wife and I are both products of public education. We both support our schools in Hampshire and feel the schools are an important part of our community. Our children receive/received a quality education and have/had a great social interaction with their peers.

4) Please describe your educational background from elementary school through post-graduate work, if any. Please include the dates of attendance and date diploma or degree, if any, that was conferred.

I attended public schools from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through graduation of high school in Ohio, graduated Newark Sr. High School 1976.

Attended public college OSU/COTC Newark, Ohio majored in Accounting 1976-1979.

5) What, if anything, about your educational background do you believe makes you a good candidate for the Board of Education?

My public education helped prepare me for my adult life. I attended a large well run school system that offered various programs from vocational to college prep. My high school was the only one in our town and had a diverse student population that allowed me to interact with all kinds of people. I have fond memories of several teachers that pushed me to excel and created an environment that promoted learning. I had my first programming classes as a Jr. and Sr. in high school; I had never thought I was interested in computers until those classes. As an adult I have since learned five different programming languages and I still use my logic training from high school and college.

- 6) Please list your employment history for the last ten (10) years. Please include what positions you currently hold and have held with each employer and what responsibilities that position entailed.

October 1981 Direct Marketing Technology Inc. as the Operations Manager, my beginning responsibility was managing the data processing center. I was continually promoted until reaching the position of Executive VP. In 1994 was elected to the Board of Directors. In April 1997 the company was sold to Experian and I remained at the company as the Executive VP, CIO responsible for all Information Technology (IT) for our division. In 2004 I decided to take early retirement to spend more time with my family. When I left Experian I was managing a \$53 million annual budget for the IT departments.

Since leaving Experian I have been an independent consultant for IT or management engagements. I am becoming more involved in Verascape, Inc. which specializes in automated phone applications and voice to text web applications.

- 7) What about your employment background, if anything, do you believe makes you a good candidate for the Board of Education?

Having been in business management most of my career I have developed skills and experiences in management, operations, negotiation, finance, project management, human resources, technology, building construction, procedure documentation, problem solving and team building.

- 8) Why are you running for a Board position?

My reason for entering the race is primarily to give back to the communities and schools that educated my three sons. I believe in public education and that every child in the district is entitled to a quality learning experience that prepares them for their next level in life. I feel that my public and private experience has prepared me for this position.

- 9) What is your understanding of the time commitment required of a Board of Education member? How much time are you able to commit to your position as a Board member on a weekly basis?

The time commitment varies with the participation on Board committees. There is prep time needed prior to every Board meeting and participating in the meeting. My estimation of the time required is between 5-20 hours a week depending on the issues that the Board is working on at the time. If elected, my commitment is to spend whatever time is necessary to perform my duties as a Board member.

- 10) Please list at least three positive things about District 300. In other words, what is working? Be as specific as possible and provide sources for any factual information that you rely on in forming your opinions.

Since the referenda passed we have added teachers and the reduced the class size to a more manageable number.

District wide curriculum standards are being implemented so that every child in the district is working on the same curriculum. This is improving the education experience in the subjects that have adopted the new standards and textbooks.

Construction of the new schools gives us the capacity to accommodate children coming into the district.

Communication with the public is improving. Timely information of school happenings is posted at the district website. Board of Education Meeting information is available online before each meeting. The district is working to gather community input into a strategic plan.

- 11) Please list those things that you would change about the District and why. Please be specific and provide sources for any factual information that you rely on in forming your opinions.

As a general statement at times change in the district is slow. As an example the process to get the new curriculum implemented is a tedious time consuming process. More specifically, I would like to see more cooperation and interaction between the schools. The district is so large and so diverse but there are valuable things happening that should be shared.

- 12) Have you volunteered to work with District 300 in the past? If so, please list your volunteer activities including the nature of your work and the dates that the volunteer work was performed and where.

## **Current D300 Community Service**

Citizen Member of Board of Education Construction/Facility Oversight Committee  
(2006-present)

- As a citizen member I participate in the monthly meeting reviewing progress of Construction/Facility current projects and anticipated projects. I joined the group in late 2006 and have participated by providing feedback and asking relevant questions.

District 300 Technology Directions Committee (2007-present)

- Just asked to join, first meeting is March 21, 2007. I look forward to participating on this committee since I have an extensive technology background.

## **Previous D300 Community Service**

*(Since I am not exactly sure of the dates served on my previous committees I did not list them. I have spent hundreds of hours on my previous D300 service.)*

Member of District 300 Boundary Committee (ABC).

- I was a member representing the Hampshire Middle and Elementary schools.

Co-Chair of District 300 Connect 300.

- I was one of four co-chairs responsible for preparing and running the community meetings. We developed the format and provided a flow of information from the community to the Board. In our final recommendations this group pushed for lowering the class sizes and creating more opportunities for community involvement with the district.

Member of District 300 Connect 300 Community Advisory Committee.

- I was a member of the CAC at the conclusion the original Connect 300. I participated in monthly meetings working on bring agenda items to the Board.

Member of Hampshire High School Principal Selection Committee.

- I was a citizen member of the principal selection committee that selected Mr. Jim Wallis as principal of Hampshire Middle/High School.

Basketball Coach Hampshire Jr. Whips.

- Assistant or Head coach of the Hampshire Jr. Whips basketball team for three years. This is a feeder system for the middle school students who

will attend Hampshire High School. We coached the team with equal playing opportunities for all of the children.

- 13) Please name three things that you would do to improve the education of the children of District 300 and explain, in detail, how your proposed improvements would be implemented.

Research success stories such as the continuing improvements being made at CMS and Lakewood Schools and use what works throughout the district. Work with other districts that have had successes and create a knowledge exchange to share programs and ideas.

Expand district-wide the parent education classes now available in some schools. Parent involvement is a huge indicator of student success and any encouragement we can give to parents to be more involved in their child's education is beneficial.

Establish a curriculum audit schedule to maintain an up-to-date and relevant curriculum. Work towards using electronic text books in the future to allow the curriculum to be modified quickly.

- 14) What, in your opinion, is the function of the Board of Education?

In my opinion, Board of Education Members are agents of the state and they serve as a bridge, or connection, between the administration of the school district and the community. Translating the desires and concerns of the community into real programs and ideas which continually build a stronger district should be the goal. This all has to be done while following all state and federal mandates. The only employee of the district that works for the Board is the Superintendent; they are responsible for goal setting, providing support and performance evaluation of the Superintendent. They should have a quarterly performance evaluation and goal review with the Superintendent to assess his/her progress.

- 15) What is the single most important duty of a member of the Board of Education?

The single most important duty of a member of the Board would be to maintain a quality education system based on the expectations of the communities it represents. The job should be approached with an open mind and no preset agendas that do not meet the expectations of the communities at large.

- 16) Are you a supporter of public education? If yes, why? If not, why not?

Yes, based on the experiences that I have had and the education that my children have received at the D300 schools. Each of my children has excelled in the D300 schools in academics, sports and extra curricular activities. They are well round people and a part of who they are was form by the public schools they have attended.

17) Are you a supporter of District 300? If yes, why? If not, why not?

Yes, based on the experiences that my children have received at the D300 schools. Each of my children has excelled in the D300 schools in academics, sports and extra curricular activities. They are well round people and a part of who they are was form by the public schools they have attended. Two of my children have only attended D300 schools and one from 1<sup>st</sup> grade through graduation.

18) Please set forth what, if anything, sets you apart from the other candidates running for the Board and that you feel is a good reason for the residents of District 300 to vote for you.

I am passionate about public education and believe that every child is entitled to a quality education and I will work towards that goal. When matters involve children and money, it is natural that emotions run high. I believe that I can maintain a balance between the emotion that comes with making decisions concerning children and the business sense needed to make practical decisions.