



**Twinsburg District PTA Council  
&  
The League of Women Voters of Hudson  
Proudly Present**

***The 2015 Board of Education  
Candidates' Forum***

**Thursday, October 29, 2015  
R.B. Chamberlin Middle School  
7:00 p.m.**



**BOE CANDIDATES' FORUM - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2015  
GROUND RULES, HUDSON LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

Note: Candidates are listed alphabetically on the program but we will draw to determine their order of appearance.

Time Limit for Opening Statements:	3 minutes
Responses to Questions:	1 minute
Rebuttals (discretionary)	30 seconds
Closing Remarks	2 minutes ( <i>unless running unopposed</i> )
Timekeeper's Warning:	1 minute Card
	30-Second Card
	Time – Bell

QUESTION PERIOD

1. Questions from the audience must be written legibly and may be directed to a specific candidate or all candidates. All questions will be asked aloud by the moderator. All candidates will be given an opportunity to respond to any question.
2. A committee of PTA members and/or BOE members screens all questions for libel and slander. Duplicate or related questions may be combined at the discretion of the committee or moderator.
3. Answers are limited to 2 minutes. Due to time constraints, rebuttals for the purpose of correcting a factual error may only be permitted at the discretion of the moderator.

In the Event that a Candidate Does Not Attend the Forum:

1. No one may speak in the candidate's place.
2. The moderator may read a brief explanation of the candidate's absence.

Additional instructions

We ask that campaign materials not be distributed before or during the meeting. Tables will be available for displaying campaign literature in the hallway outside the Auditorium.

In order to maintain the nonpartisan nature of this event, audience members may not wear campaign buttons, hats, or other similar items during the program.



Candidate's Name: **Brandon Bucknell**

Age: 24

Address: 10058 Pirates Trail, Aurora, OH 44202

Occupation: Commercial Loan Officer at Liberty Bank

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Political Science (History Minor) from Notre Dame College

**Qualifications for Office:** I have lived here the longest, I am a graduate of the system, and I am college educated.

**Question 1: How will the recently enacted biennium budget impact the District's long-term budget concerns?**

Governor Kasich has been at odds with his own political party over school budgets. The General Assembly worked around the clock to preserve funding for schools. Senator LaRose worked with TPP reliant districts for budget help. Cuts to public schools, while for profit charter schools soak Ohio's taxpayers.

**Question 2: What is your plan to sustain the Operational Change Plan so as to strengthen the District's financial future?**

Let's make sure we are educating our children first. We are preparing the next generation of Americans for citizenship and productive lives. If we fail as a community, or fail collectively as a nation, then we will have much bigger problems than Operational Change Plans. Let's position kids for success!

**Question 3: What suggestions can you offer to address concerns regarding the amount of testing that occurs in public school classrooms?**

I've listened to kids, parents, and teachers. Collectively they are frustrated by the testing culture and big government meddling. Kids are NOT widgets. Teachers are not machines on a production line. School must be a place that builds interest and excitement about the world. I'm an advocate of local control.



Candidate's Name: **Matt Cellura**

Age: 35

Address: 9901 Ravenna Road, Twinsburg, OH 44087

Occupation: Owner, M & G Pools

Education: The Ohio State University

**Qualifications for Office:** As an Army Non-Commissioned Officer and Combat Veteran, I have leadership abilities, as a business owner, I have the financial background, as the father of three children, I have passion, as a taxpayer, I have the vested interest that our schools succeed.

**Question 1: How will the recently enacted biennium budget impact the District's long-term budget concerns?**

We need to continue to look at our expenditures and budgets to ensure that we are operating in the most efficient and productive way possible. We need to ensure that no changes are made which will affect the core education that we give to our students.

**Question 2: What is your plan to sustain the Operational Change Plan so as to strengthen the District's financial future?**

Watching our budget and expenditures, reviewing them to ensure that we as a District are doing our part to keep the promise made to the community when this plan was enacted. I will push for more combined services to help lower our costs, and seek out ways to steady expenditures.

**Question 3: What suggestions can you offer to address concerns regarding the amount of testing that occurs in public school classrooms?**

As a Board Member, I will continue to be an advocate for our students and teachers at the State level where these decisions are made and implemented. I will ask our parents and residents to make their voices heard regarding all decisions made in Columbus that impact our District.



**Candidate's Name:** Mark Curtis

**Age:** 47

**Address:** 10472 Woodchuck Court, Twinsburg, OH 44087

**Occupation:** Employed by the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County,  
Educational Consultant and Professional

**Education:** B.A. Communications, Otterbein College  
M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies, Hiram College

**Qualifications for Office:** 24 years of experience in education, Vice President of the Board of Education for the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center and member of the labor negotiations team, member of the Ohio School Boards Association, member of the Ohio Department of Education School Improvement Diagnostic Team.

**Question 1: How will the recently enacted biennium budget impact the District's long-term budget concerns?**

Reductions in funding will have an impact on our 5 year forecast. I would like to explore a regional approach to sharing costs with surrounding districts to minimize our expenses. We must continue to demonstrate our ability to save prior to any levy.

**Question 2: What is your plan to sustain the Operational Change Plan so as to strengthen the District's financial future?**

We must maintain sufficient staffing levels and continue to seek ways to reduce costs so that we do not deficit spend. Any use of our reserve must only be done to augment maintaining high quality instruction. This will allow us to remain solvent and mitigate drastic cuts.

**Question 3: What suggestions can you offer to address concerns regarding the amount of testing that occurs in public school classrooms?**

Board members have no direct control of how many state tests are administered. We must continue to lobby our state and federal lawmakers to reduce this burden in future years. I firmly believe teacher-created assessments are a better indicator of content knowledge than summative assessments.



### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**All information printed in this document was provided by the BOE Candidates and was copied verbatim from the responses each candidate submitted.**

**The General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2015.**

**Absentee Ballot Applications are available on the registration table in the lobby.**

**Special thanks to Beverly Dorson and *The League of Women Voters of Hudson* for their assistance this evening.**

**Thank you for attending this evening's BOE Candidates' Forum.**

### **2015/2016 DISTRICT PTA COUNCIL OFFICERS**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Sherri Botta</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Jill Attwell</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Elissa Prendergast</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Maureen Banas</b>