

The historic and global impact from events over the past few months has permanently altered the look of “business as usual “ for pretty much most of the world. If you have children in school, or are an educator or staff member at a local school district you certainly don't need me to tell you that. In literally a matter of days our “business as usual” went from a school building with hallways and classrooms bustling with the energy of children learning and doing and sharing, to a place where teachers now went to collate assignment packets for students to utilize for the week’s “distance learning”.

We here in the “North Country” aren’t usually included in most National issues...those are big city problems. This time though, we got swept into a national crisis that had fast developing and possibly far reaching impact on the state’s school districts...ours included.

I said all of that to say this: In spite of all of the curves that the COVID19 restrictions and mandates have thrown at schools throughout the state, the Argyle Central School District, its administration, teachers, staff and BOE have met every hurdle with sound plans, coordinated execution and dedicated involvement. Needless to say, there have been lots of emails and phone calls, meetings and teleconferences. I anticipate there will be many more as we move forward.

In the near term the goal in the district is to get our students to the end of the school year with all of their academic requirements met. Our teaching staff has performed brilliantly in making this a reality. As a body the BOE will have a lot of work to do as we begin to sift through the repercussions of the shut down and its effects on future operations.

As an incumbent member of that board, whose current 5-year term expires this year, I am seeking re-election. While I am proud that I was able to be a part of the progress that we as a Board made over the last five years there is going to be much more work to do during the next five.

Over the course of these past five years, I have served on both the Personnel Committee and the Policy Committee. I was a member of the negotiating team that reached a successful contract settlement with the Non Teachers’ Association; worked on reviewing, updating and revising the Argyle Central School District Policy Manual; worked with other board members reviewing and approving all aspects of a major building project; searched for and hired a qualified interim Superintendent; conducted interviews and helped choose a new District Superintendent; met regularly and made recommendations to District Negotiator during talks with and subsequent contract acceptance by Argyle Teachers’ Union.

It is unknown what long term effect the COVID19 pandemic will have on the country’s and the State’s economies. Whatever the ultimate effect, the possibility that the Governor could reduce state financial aid to the district could mean a lot more work for the board. I would like to be a participant in that work.

I respectfully ask you for your support and your vote.

Thank you,

Tom Genovese