

## Dr. Pam Brown, Candidates' Night Presentation (2 Mins.)

I'm Pam Brown, a member of the Sanborn Regional School Board and its Vice Chair. I've served for 2 years, I am seeking your vote for re-election.

I've enjoyed a career in Education for over 30 years, teaching economics to both Dual Enrollment High School as well as Community College students. I'm also an economist with a Ph.D. I wasn't expecting to run for office, until I began hearing from neighbors – both parents and taxpayers:

- They said they were worried about the Schools' high costs – and stagnant performance;
- They could not understand why expenses were going UP – when statewide Enrollments are falling;
- They wondered why our spending-per-pupil exceeds the State average by \$2,000 - yet our children gained no perceived benefit; and
- they knew our 'Students-to-Teacher Ratio' was well below that of top-performing schools and the State's average, yet our academic performance was not enhanced by the increased Adult-Contact hours that low ratio allows.

This led me to run. Our students are amazingly capable. What would it take -- for us to fully evidence their talents – and become a top-performing District?

After two years, we've learned the following:

1) First, our Grades K through 8 show solid performance. The challenges arise with the high school: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Math scores dropped in 2016 to an alarming "28% proficient." I was elected 2016 – and now we are overhauling our Math program and have introduced (free) Kahn Academy Tutoring. SATs scores are now rising.

2) Second, our teacher salaries lag far below those at top-performing districts. Teachers leave our district - once they've gained experience. By adjusting our LOW Students-to-teacher ratio, so it's better aligned with ratios at top-performing districts, we may significantly increase our teachers' salaries - WITHOUT adding burdens to taxpayers. This should "right" the ship – and move us to the top!

Our district is working on many improvements – including enhanced security, drug prevention programs, and new facilities. To date, I've successfully

- urged our District 5-Year Plan include MEASURABLE education goals;
- helped Negotiate two, voter-approved Contracts and
- supported budget refunds exceeding \$2 million to taxpayers.

I am just getting started. Thank you!

