

***Friends of Clifton Park Open Space, P.O. Box 821, Clifton Park, New York 12065***

**SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE QUESTIONS:**

**BILL CASEY -- ANSWERS**

1. How would you respond to the sustained depth and extent of public support within the district for keeping the 34 acres in the public domain? Please share your views about a potential future for this property.

***I am publically committed to seeing this full 34 acres parcel sold to the Town of Clifton Park to be developed as a central park in our community; I have advocated for this outcome for months. After the transfer (which will ultimately require public approval) I envision the Town taking the lead in initiating a public planning process where concepts for the park are considered and where budgets and phasing are discussed for public input. I anticipate these planning sessions to be arranged in such a way that there is full public input (as has been the past protocol for Town planning initiatives).***

2. Throughout the RFP and subsequent Referendum process, the School Board appeared to take a subservient position to that of the Superintendent. How would you use your position as a school board member to put the impetus for school policy back into the hands of the school board?

***The Board of Education's principal roles are to set policy for the district, to adopt a budget and present it to the residents, and to select and oversee the work of the Superintendent. As the publically elected overseers of the district, the Board must be assertive in its work, open to public input, and serious about its oversight role. Participating in the last several months of the land sale discussions has caused me to act more independently, "bucking the system" where I thought the direction of the Board and administration varied widely from the public's desire. As a BOE member, I will continue that independent role.***

3. How can the School Board strive for more transparency, and improve communications on key issues in order to interact with residents more effectively?

***Several suggestions have been made to make the BOE more transparent and more effective in its communications with the public. Certainly a rethinking of the public comment policy is in order where currently there is absolutely no feedback or response given at the time of public comment. Additionally, more opportunities for public input, perhaps in the form of regular BOE-Public Community Conversations at convenient times for the public where there could be true dialogue and exchange of ideas, would increase the public's confidence in board's openness. Additionally, the Board must be strict in its adherence to the open meetings law requirements, looking to limit its use of Executive Sessions to strictly personnel contract or other items governed by confidentiality requirements. One additional item building on the lessons of the land sale discussion—when items of major interest and importance to the public are debated, I will push for more use of targeted Public Hearings to allow fuller exchange of opinions by the public.***

Disclaimer: *Friends of Clifton Park Open Space does not endorse or oppose any candidate and provides this information to prospective voters as an educational service. Our intention is to encourage informed and active participation in the upcoming election.*