

Name:

Brandon Trondle

How long have you lived in the L'Anse Creuse Community?

18 years

Have you served on any school or district committees? If so, please list committees and your role (chair, co-chair, or participant).

As of this point I have not served on any district or school committees. I have been very involved with student activities in the past but have yet to serve on any committees.

Do you attend Board of Education meetings, if so how often?

I have attended board meetings on and off since May of 2016 and have watched board meetings on the district's YouTube page.

Have you served as a volunteer in the community? If so, for what organization?

I am very involved in volunteering in the community. Volunteering is a very important thing to do and I thank my parents for teaching me to start at a young age because it has shown me that I can impact those around me by giving my time to others. I was second in my graduating class for most community service hours having recorded 650+ hours of community service. I have completed a large amount of my volunteer work at The Woods Church where I have been a Sunday School teacher for the past six-years teaching grades anywhere from second to fifth. I also volunteer as a leader of the children's worship team at The Woods church, I have been an assistant leader of the team for the past five-years and in November of 2015 I became the director/head of the team which I now run. I have done volunteering projects throughout my entire life through my church and through school. In the past I would volunteer several days a week at The Hope Center of Macomb, and I believe that was one of the most eye-opening and rewarding opportunities of my life. As a middle schooler I was able to help individuals and families in a way that was greater than myself. Volunteering can be life changing and inspiring and has been a big part of the person I have become today.

Family:

Spouse: Single

Children: N/A **How many in LCPS?** N/A

Career:

I am a full time college student at Macomb Community College. I began attending Macomb Community College in the 11th grade through the Early College of Macomb and got a head start on college while I finished my last two years of high school. I am a hardworking student dedicated to my academics and to my future.

Education:

L'Anse Creuse High School Class of 2016

Early College of Macomb 2014-Present

Macomb Community College 2014-Present

What do you think is the purpose of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Board of Education?

The purpose of the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools Board of Education is to serve selflessly to represent the students and community. The board is responsible for many tough issues within the district and finding the best solution and policies that are all around best for our students and faculty. The board is responsible for representing our students and parents in the best way possible through the decisions they make.

What particular or added dimensions would you would bring to the Board if voted in?

As a Board Member I will bring an entirely new point of view to the board, the view of a student. As a recent graduate of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools and a college student I will be able to effectively represent the students of the district. I have spent the past 13years of my life in L'Anse Creuse building relationships with the students and teachers. I have spent my entire academic career in L'Anse Creuse Public Schools, from kindergarten to graduation, and I will be able to serve my community and the board by using my experiences as a student to effectively present the valuable view of a student. The board is there to do what is best for the students, and I will use my experience and vote to always do what is best for the students first.

What do you feel are the three most positive aspects of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

- 1) All of the programs that help build our students up, help them discover a passion, and teach them to succeed in their academics and everyday life.
- 2) The students. The students work to build up our programs and district as a whole and represent L'Anse Creuse in great ways. Our students are the reason L'Anse Creuse is known as such an outstanding district. They are great people that I have gotten to know throughout the years as I attend the schools in the district. It is their hard work and determination that has gotten our district to where it is today.
- 3) The teachers. Our district's teachers dedication to the students by providing the best possible education, and by being there for the students as they go through some difficult times. As a student in the district, I can tell you just how amazing the teachers are! The teachers give everything they have to the students and sometimes they aren't even told just how much of an impact they have had on our lives. Students spend five days a week with their teachers and the teachers are dedicated to educating your students but also more than that I can tell you first hand that they are dedicated to helping and watching them succeed academically and outside of their academics. The bonds students make with teachers are great, they are more than teachers they are mentors and role models to all the students. Our district's teachers are one of the biggest strengths this district has as they are the backbone of our schools and are the ones directly impacting and influencing students lives everyday for the better.

What do you feel are the three greatest challenges facing L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

Declining enrollment, finances, and our districts ability to sweep issues, such as bullying, under the rug.

What is your understanding of how our schools are financed? How could the district maintain a balanced budget?

The district receives funds on a per pupil basis. For every student the district has they receive so much money from the state. Our district is facing a decline of enrollment which has lead to a decline in revenue and is projected to decline even more in the years to come.

What is your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the overall operations of L'Anse Creuse Public Schools?

Our districts biggest strength is the sense of community that is created within the schools and within the district. Our district provides a safe place for students and teachers to feel comfortable and accepted through the classes and programs offered. Our district does a great job of having something for every student to participate in if they wish to and a teacher(s) to help participate and organize it. The groups and programs the district provides allows all students to find their place in their school and community and this is in all school elementary, middle and high school. Our district provides opportunities for all students to find their place within their community and gives students a safe and inviting atmosphere. The weaknesses is our boards lack of connection with the students and community. Students and community members have felt ignored and shut out by several board decisions and I believe that over the years this has caused a division between our community and our school board. We need to work to build relationships with students, parents, and all community members and listened to their concerns.

Board members are elected to represent the community, speak with their voice, and for what is best for the students and I will work to create a new and strong bond between the community and the board.

If you win a seat on the Board of Education, what would you seek to accomplish?

I hope to reconnect the board with the students, parents, and community. In my sophomore year of high school my peers and I felt as if we were disconnected from the board and were being ignored. This feeling never went away, but was never made more clear than in June of 2016 almost a month after the district announced that the high school school day would change from 7-periods to 6-periods. Thousands of community members took their opposition of this change to an online petitions where thousands of community members signed is discontent of this change. Hundreds of concerned and upset students and parents attended the board meetings and spoke about their concerns and disapproval of this abrupt change. I was one of those students who attended and shared their concerns and also felt as if their voices were not being heard when the board voted in a 4-3 decision to change the school day. As a board member my top concern (and what makes me strive for this position) is that I want to reconnect the board to the community and began to mend the relationships that have been damaged over the past few years. In order for L'Anse Creuse to begin to move in the same positive direction we need to elect board members who will work tirelessly to make the students and parents feel that they have a voice and a board that will work with them. The relationship between the board and the community is one of the most important relationships there is in our schools. We need to make sure that what is best for the students is being done because as a recent graduate of L'Anse Creuse High School I can tell you that the students did not always believe that their best interest was being put first. As a community member I work to build bridges among different groups and create a positive atmosphere and as a board member I will do no different.

To what extent do you think Board members should be involved in legislative activities?

Board members should be informed and aware of all legislative activities that will have an impact on our students and schools.

Additional comments:

This survey did not give the community an opportunity to learn as much about me as I would like so here is some more information about me. I am a recent graduate from L'Anse Creuse High School and am an 18 year old candidate for the board of education. I am extremely grateful for the district of L'Anse Creuse because it has made me the person I am today. L'Anse Creuse has helped me find my voice starting in elementary school and continuing up to graduation. In the 5th grade I was a member of the Fish Club where I helped take a group of kindergarteners to the bus everyday. In middle school I was a part of the Student Council and during my second year of student council I helped organize and run the food drive and I also found the food bank in which we would donate the food to as I volunteered there almost daily. In the 8th grade I was Vice President of the middle school band. In high school I was extremely involved in the band program and dedicated to my academics. My Junior year of high school I became dual enrolled in college and high school through the Early College of Macomb. That year I also

became Section Leader and Horn Sergeant for the band where my responsibilities increased and my grades did as well. During my senior year of high school I became a Drum Major of the Marching Lancers and I will say I have never been more proud to accomplish such a goal and work with such amazing people. I was one of four drum majors responsible for assisting the band directors and staff, communicating and working with parents, and also organizing and running practices in an efficient way with nearly 200 members on the field. Throughout the years I have also volunteered in my church and have now become the director of the children's worship team at my church where I am responsible for communicating with parents about all practices, updates, and possible concerns. I am responsible for organizing practices with all team members, running rehearsal in an effective manner, and also must work with the team members, parents, and head members of the church to organize special events and opportunities to make sure everyone has the opportunity to participate. Since I have become director of the team I have been able to start a second team at one of my churches two other locations. I understand and have a history of communicating and working with students, parents and the community to effectively do what is best for our students. I am running for the Board to give all students in the district a voice and to work to rebuild the relationships our district needs so we can once again move in the same positive direction. I hope to be able to inspire students to always give their all and aim high, anything is possible and there is no age limit on that.