

## Laurie Ogden-Biography

36 General Walker Ct. Harpers Ferry WV 25425



My name is Laurie Ogden. I am running for the Board of Education in Jefferson County, West Virginia to improve student learning and physical health, and improve communication with the community.

### Family

My family lives in the Harpers Ferry district. My husband Brandon Sr. and I have been married 19 years. I have 4 children. Brandon Jr. ,17, attends Jefferson High School, Austin,14, attends Wildwood Middle School, Cameron,10, attends C.W.Shipley, and Samantha,3, will attend the new school on Job Corp Rd.

### Upbringing

My father was born in Webster Springs, WV and my grandmother in Belo, WV. My family also has a long history in the coal mining industry. After several moves to find other work, my parents relocated back to

West Virginia 11 years ago. My family followed and my daughter was born here at Jefferson Memorial. After moving to the area, we realized it was a homecoming for my husband as well. His father is Peter Burr Ogden who is related to the descendants of the Peter Burr Ogden House in Jefferson County.

### Education /Background

My Degree is in Early Childhood Education. However, I am currently enrolled in the Sports and Health Sciences program at American Public University in Charles Town. I also have a personal trainer certification and am currently an exercise therapist for Capitol Rehab.

At age three my oldest child was diagnosed with Autism. Since then I have actively served as a parent advocate on special education committees for several years. I worked to bring consensus between parents and schools finding creative and innovative ways to meet the child's needs and stay within state and federal guidelines. In addition, I have served as the Treasurer, Vice President, and President of various PTO's. I have also served as the Vice President and am the current President of the Jefferson High School Football Boosters. I have also served as the secretary of the finance committee of our church for over 5 years. I served as the stage director for our yearly Easter drama production for 3 years. During college I worked for John Deere and received my certification as a forklift operator.

### Agenda

First and foremost my agenda is for the children and community here in Jefferson County. As a parent of four, I am involved in all levels of our education system and feel firsthand what happens on a daily basis.

My three main issues are as follows:

1. **Increased Pay for Teachers and Professional Development-** to be able to attract and retain quality teachers, we must pay them enough to live here. I will also work to provide more professional development opportunities for our teachers. There is a direct correlation between increased student achievement and a well-trained teacher.
2. **Health, Physical Education, Movement Activities-** Our state ranks #1 or #2 every year in obesity and diabetes. I will work to improve our children's health by working with PE teachers, coaches, groups such as WV Kids in Action and state programs supported by the First Lady and area Doctors. Our children need to enjoy the beautiful area in which we live while increasing their physical activity. I know we can make great strides in this.

- 3. Community Involvement-** I will work to bring together parents and community members by listening to their ideas. I will also work with our county and city governments to improve communication.

**I understand some of these changes need to begin in Charleston. I also understand the need to “fit” in with the rest of the state. I still have family in Webster Springs and Cowen and other parts of our state that do not have all that we have. I know someone has to pay a cost. I do not make those decisions lightly.**

**If elected, I feel it is my job to listen and understand every angle of our school community from administration, teaching, office staff, maintenance, cafeteria personnel, coaching, guidance and transportation so that I can make the best decisions for our children and community. I will build relationships in our county and our state to better our educational system.**

**I am driven, I know how to work, and I have a vested interest in what happens here.**

**Our children are the next leaders of our county and our country.**

**I ask for your vote on May 11<sup>th</sup> not so I can do what I want, but we as a community can work together to better our future.**