



FREEDOM WATCH

Citizens Project

This is a Paid Insert

This publication is a free, nonpartisan service provided by Citizens Project to encourage informed voting and voter turnout. Candidates were asked to limit their responses to 50 words. The responses were not edited for grammar, punctuation, or spelling. Responses can also be viewed on our website: www.CitizensProject.org.

★ ★ ★ OCTOBER 2011 ELECTIONS ISSUE ★ ★ ★

Your vote is your voice.

Voting is more than a right; it's a responsibility. When you make educated choices at the ballot box, you're investing in your community and holding your leaders accountable.

That's why, for the last 19 years, Citizens Project has produced nonpartisan publications and events for all local elections: to arm you with the information you need to make educated decisions that shape your community.

Thanks to the Pikes Peak Equality Coalition, collaborators, volunteers, donors, and readers like you, Citizens Project is proud to present our 2011 Freedom Watch Voter Guide for school board elections and city and state ballot measures. We hope you'll use it to inform your decisions in the 2011 general election.

▶ **Didn't receive your ballot or have questions about voting?**

Call the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder at 719-575-VOTE (8683).
Check your registration & report problems at www.justvotecolorado.org

Ballot Measures Explained

Colorado Springs Measure 2B – Memorial Health System

This measure would remove City Council's ability to impose a tax to offset financial losses at Memorial Health System. It does not change the health system's ownership.

Colorado Proposition 103 (statutory) – Taxes & Public Education

Called the Colorado Tax Increase Initiative, this measure would raise the state sales tax (from 2.9 to 3 percent, beginning in 2012 through 2017) and income tax (from 4.63 to 5 percent, beginning in 2012 through 2016) and allocate the revenues derived from the increases to fund public education. Estimated cumulative income from these two measures is \$3B and would reduce the impact of statewide budget cuts to public education.

Resources

- Ballotpedia.org www.gazette.com/sections/infocenter/votersguide/
- voteyeson103.com www.sos.state.co.us
- stopprop103.com 2011 State Ballot Measure Information Booklet

Candidate Questions

1. *Why are you running for school board, and what are the most pressing issues the district should address this year?*
2. *Please explain what your district has done and what you will do to comply with Colorado HB1254, signed into law in May 2011, which requires school districts to include LGBT students in their anti-bullying policies.*
3. *Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to reject or accept an application for a new charter school in your district?*
4. *Many school districts struggle to remain competitive in a turbulent economic climate. What kind of budget process would you request from your district's administration, and what factors should be considered when allocating cuts?*
5. *Suppose a group of students wants to form a "Gay-Straight Alliance" and their principal denies the application, fearing it will be too controversial. The students contact you. What will you do? What should the district administration do?*
6. *Do you support instruction and expansion of access to comprehensive health education programs, including age-appropriate, science-based sex education standards created by passage of House Bill 07-1292? Why or why not?*
7. *What will you do to ensure your district is providing healthy meals and snacks to all students? What, if anything, should schools do to limit "junk food" options and increase student access to local, fresh food?*
8. *What role should state-mandated District Accountability Committees play in developing district policy, and what can the school board do to increase parent involvement on these committees?*
9. *How is your district proactively working to ensure a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and how could they be improved?*

Citizens Project
P.O. Box 2085
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

Nonprofit Org.
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Colorado Springs, CO
Permit No. 463

Candidate Questions



D-11 Nora Brown
 5220 Champagne Drive . 80919
 NoraBrownforEducation@gmail.com
 NoraBrownforEducation.webs.com
 719-351-9944
 Education: BS in Psychology; Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX
 MA in Business Administration; University of Phoenix, Denver, CO



D-11 Kathleen D. Foster
 3627 Queen Anne Way . 80917
 kthlnfstr@aol.com
 www.linkedin.com/pub/kathleen-foster/26/699/55b
 719-362-7427
 Education: BA in Psychology; MA in Teaching; School Executive Certification

1. Why are you running for school board, and what are the most pressing issues the district should address this year?

2. Please explain what your district has done and what you will do to comply with Colorado HB1254, signed into law in May 2011, which requires school districts to include LGBT students in their anti-bullying policies.

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7. What will you do to ensure your district is providing healthy meals and snacks to all students? What, if anything, should schools do to limit "junk food" options and increase student access to local, fresh food?

8. What role should state-mandated District Accountability Committees play in developing district policy, and what can the school board do to increase parent involvement on these committees?

9. How is your district proactively working to ensure a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and how could they be improved?

1. I have been actively involved in the schools, PTAs, district committees, and education issues for 17 years. District 11 is struggling with underperforming schools, disenfranchised students and parents, and a budget facing more impactful cuts. My experience with collaboration, advocacy, and finance can be valuable for critical changes ahead.

2. The current policy needs updating per HB 1254 to include transgender students; however, I would prefer it to include "gender expression" to protect more students from harassment/discrimination. All students need to feel safe in school; the policy needs better enforcement and schools need to recognize the power of derogatory words.

3. Charter schools offer choice to families and can provide focused instruction impassioning learning in some students. The draw on the budget is disproportionate, however, and accepting a charter should consider it a substantial benefit not currently provided. The Colorado Supreme Court found vouchers unconstitutional and voters repeatedly vote against them.

4. I support zero based budgeting – every expense/program should be reviewed for its effectiveness and evaluated for its efficiencies before approving funding. Input from all stakeholders is valuable, especially from users with direct knowledge of how resources and programs are really being allocated and implemented.

5. Student groups are allowed by district policy as long as they meet certain authorization requirements. They can be valuable to student morale and teach important organizational skills. A Gay-Straight Alliance meeting district criteria should be approved, and I would contact the Superintendent to explore policy enforcement.

6. I support sex education outlined by HB 07-1292, because knowledge is power, and this education provides our youth with the power to make responsible, healthy decisions to protect themselves in their relationships. Respecting family values, there always needs to be parental ability to opt out/in where they feel it appropriate.

7. I am pleased with District 11's work to increase the nutritional value of meals through their Farm2School program. Collaborating with other districts and local farmers and focusing on fresh foods is positive. Increased education while providing healthy choices and discouraging "junk food" at school is good modeling for positive behavior.

8. I have served on school accountability committees for the past twelve years and feel parent input to school decision-making and School Improvement Plans is valuable and adds a necessary layer of accountability and transparency for our students/parents/communities. Increased publicity and specific, time-defined, relatable tasks for committee involvement would increase interest.

9. We need to value and respect all religions while providing a neutral, safe environment for all students. The district's policies address the teaching of religion while stressing its academic and cultural impact and value, not the promotion or opposition of any religion. Holiday celebrations need to focus on universal symbols and themes without undue emphasis on religious symbols. While prayer is allowed, it shouldn't make anyone feel uncomfortable or be led by anyone in authority. My experience is that the policies are not always enforced, an area that needs improvement.

1. Running for School Board Director is a higher commitment to education, children, and my community. Pressing issues: impact of budget cuts; federal and state mandates that produce questionable results; student safety (bullying); teacher pay; dropout/graduation rates; better communication/collaboration between district stakeholders.

2. ALL students should be able to go to school free from fear and harassment. It is the responsibility of every staff member to ensure EVERY student is protected and safe in our schools. As a parent and educator, I have zero tolerance for bullying.

3. The Board of Education facilitates proposals for the establishment of charter schools within the District. The U.S. Supreme Court gave its backing to voucher programs, however, Colorado courts overturned voucher laws because some went further toward supporting religious institutions than the State constitutions allows.

4. I would have to rely upon current Board members for guidance on the budget process. Increasing mandates restrict federal and state funding to school districts, yet have shown to have marginal results. Programs which impact student learning and success the least should be considered first when allocating cuts.

5. I would refer the students to the proper chain of command or contact the person of responsibility to in turn contact the students. Central administration could contact the principal to remind him/her of the policy and procedure regarding approval of school clubs and organizations.

6. As a classroom teacher, I taught Sex Education years ago as part of the 6th grade health curriculum. HB 07-1292 is a 2007 House Bill. I support whatever sex education curriculum School District 11 Curriculum Committee recommends as appropriate for each grade level and that is approved by the Board.

7. District 11 Nutrition Department already provides healthier meals for students. Reminding teachers and parents to provide healthy snacks would be helpful. The Nutrition Department also explores options to buy from and support local farmers and suppliers. Buying from local farmers helps keep money within our local economy.

8. The overall purpose of the DAC is to make recommendations to the Board of Education relative to accreditation, achievement, District and school performance plans, and priorities for spending school district funds. Perhaps the best way to find out how to increase parental involvement is to ask parents.

9. According to District policy, the purpose and effect of a religious activity or teaching should be to expose students to religious beliefs rather than to compel affirmation or denial of specific religious beliefs. District curriculum does not address prayer and creationism and is not a forum for any type of specific religious worship or teachings. As a public entity, District 11 maintains religious neutrality, neither opposing nor promoting any religion or religious observance.



D-11 Jim Mason

2623 Rockhurst Boulevard . 80918
ejamesmason@msn.com
719-321-5820
Education: BA in Political Science, Knox College;
MS in Personnel Management, Troy State
University; Master of Military Arts and Science,
U.S. Army Command and General Staff College;
Graduate of U.S. Army War College



D-11 Lisanne McNew

4720 Rushford Place . 80923
Lisanne.McNew@gmail.com
719-237-2430
Education: BS in Kinesiology Sports
Science, University of Northern Colorado;
MA in Leadership, Research, and
Development-Student Affairs & Higher
Education, UCCS



D-11 Elaine Naleski

5270 Copper Drive . 80918
elainenaleski@gmail.com
719-594-4482
Education: BS in Elementary Education, Mary
Hardin-Baylor College, MEd in Elementary
Supervision, North Texas State University
Post-graduate work in Curriculum and Instruction,
University of Texas at Austin

1. I can provide the leadership necessary to help improve student achievement. My service as Chairman of the DAC Budget Subcommittee provides me with firsthand experience in dealing with the challenges facing the District. 1) Number of students below grade-level proficiency; 2) Lack of Incentive Programs; and 3) Low parental involvement.

2. District 11 leadership will support and enforce the law. As a School Board Director, I will ensure the District is complaint and has in place methods for monitoring and assessing our program.

3. Charter Schools have value in the overall educational framework that supports improved Student Achievement. Vouchers---my personal thinking matters little. Student achievement must improve; we must focus on this task. Moreover, if we raise student achievement to grade-level + ...the context of Charter Schools and vouchers discussions will substantially change.

4. I will work with Board colleagues and the Administration to design budget plans that foster improved student achievement. Additionally, I will assist in codifying the strengths and weaknesses associated with the State's education policies and requirements while taking a lead role in communicating this information to State Officials.

5. I would refer them to the Superintendent. I would expect the Administration to explore the merits, discuss with School Attorney, take appropriate action, and establish a reporting mechanism that supports follow-through and accountability.

6. If elected, I will support and ensure the District has a comprehensive program that is properly followed within the approved curriculum.

7. District 11 currently provides healthy meal opportunities; and vigorously supports healthy eating habits and living.

8. District Accountability Committees must adhere to and be responsible for executing their duties as prescribed by policy and law.

9. Based on my observations, District 11 is following the law and supporting prudent initiatives.

1. I am a CS native, D11 graduate, mother of two D11 students, Director of Placement/UCCS, Freshman Instructor, and business owner. I want to give back to my community and ensure all students have the best opportunity for academic and well-rounded success. Achievement, budget, communication/collaboration with parents and community.

2. D-11 has a Bullying Prevention Program as well as a Crisis Prevention Program (The Emergency Crisis Operations Team (ECOT)) which functions to respond in an effective and efficient manner to District crises. I support these efforts.

3. Parents are given the right to choose which school is best for their child. Having schools that focus on different areas are good for children and their family. I would accept an application so long as it met the requirements set out by Colorado Law.

4. Look at revenues first and then start with the bottom up. Zero based budgeting. Take a strong look at all programs that are not education related when making cuts.

5. I would uphold the district policy.

6. In Colorado, comprehensive health education is optional. I support providing information regarding overall healthy choices for students. I do believe it is important that the families and parents of students are the primary source for values and information. I support an opt-out policy.

7. D-11 is currently working through this matter with their "District Wellness" program.

8. DACs should be consulted as they play a vital role in the district. Getting parents involved at any level will increase achievement. Surveys to identify ideas of volunteers then create opportunities to match. Information for students/families on local programs/ services. Family/parent focused events. Reaching out to new parents.

9. The District has an existing policy to ensure a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students is being met.

1. Good school systems begin with good boards. I want to make the world a better place for all children. I believe I have the knowledge and background to make a difference. Issues are: increasing achievement, funding, reducing the drop out rate, and strengthening the relationship between D11 and the community.

2. The Bullying policy (JICDE), last updated in 2002, does not define bullying in specific terms, and is being reviewed. Climate surveys collect bullying perception data. The Safe Schools Plan (ADD-E-1) is compliant and Policy EHC was updated in March 2011. I would encourage more teacher education and communication on bullying.

3. I support school choice, but I am not a proponent of charter schools and vouchers, unless the school is held to the same standards as other schools supported by public funds and is governed by a taxpayer-elected board. Any new charters should have a unique approach with a success record.

4. When it comes to the budget, there are no right or wrong answers to the decisions that must be made. The process must be inclusive, transparent, and meaningful. As a board, we must ensure the district maintains a quality, diversified, and well-rounded educational program that is based on student needs.

5. I would advise them to talk with their Executive Director (principal's boss) about their request. Then I would let the superintendent know about the contact. In District 11, the students do have permission to form a GSA in our schools. The administration should make sure the principals know the policies.

6. I absolutely support the instruction and expansion of access to comprehensive health education programs, because I believe we must teach our children these concepts for their own well-being and safety. Data and statistics for our county, alone, prove the need for age appropriate, science-based sex education.

7. District 11 is a leader for healthy meals and snacks for all students, and through partnerships, I helped bring attention to this effort to make it a reality. We need to increase educational information for staff/student/parent choices of foods and remove "junk food" options in the schools and classrooms.

8. The District Accountability Committee does not set policy, but should serve in an advisory capacity to the BOE, to ensure continued educational success and effective and efficient operations. In order to increase parent involvement, we must **go to the parents** and make committee meetings convenient for them.

9. D11 has policies and regulations in place based on the premise that "religious belief and non-belief are matters of personal consideration rather than governmental authority." Policies IHAL, AC, EHC, JBB-R, JK and corresponding regulations provide the direction and guidance for a religiously neutral environment. Prayer is allowed by individuals, but not required or directed by school personnel. D11 teaches the science standards (which use evolution) and do not address the origins of man at the elementary and middle school level. At the high school level, various theories of evolution are discussed. Holiday celebrations are addressed in Policy IHAL and its regulations, establishing a list a questions to consider in each school-sponsored activity. A periodic reminder to the staff about such policies would be helpful.

Candidate Questions



D-11 Bob Null

2104 Eagle View Drive . 80909
 BobNull@d11educationalexcellence.com
 D11educationalexcellence.com
 719-473-7455
 Education: MSE, BSE, Arizona State University, Armed Forces Staff College, Defense Systems Management College



D-11 Jan Tanner

2728 Northcrest Drive . 80918
 tannerjj@comcast.net
 719-661-5983
 Education: University of Texas, Austin-MA Trinity University, San Antonio-BA Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa
 Prospect H.S, Mt. Prospect, IL-Diploma

1. Why are you running for school board, and what are the most pressing issues the district should address this year?

2. Please explain what your district has done and what you will do to comply with Colorado HB1254, signed into law in May 2011, which requires school districts to include LGBT students in their anti-bullying policies.

3. Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to reject or accept an application for a new charter school in your district?

4. Many school districts struggle to remain competitive in a turbulent economic climate. What kind of budget process would you request from your district's administration, and what factors should be considered when allocating cuts?

5. Suppose a group of students wants to form a "Gay-Straight Alliance" and their principal denies the application, fearing it will be too controversial. The students contact you. What will you do? What should the district administration do?

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8. What role should state-mandated District Accountability Committees play in developing district policy, and what can the school board do to increase parent involvement on these committees?

9. How is your district proactively working to ensure a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and how could they be improved?

1. I have four years on the D-11 Board and will continue to devote full-time attention and energy to the successful education of all our students.
 Priorities:
 Student Focused High Quality Teachers, Educational Support Professionals, Achievement GAP, Graduation and Dropout Rates, Assessment Framework and Impacts, Enrollment Numbers

2. Our district includes bullying policy with regard to LGBT students in the same context as bullying involving any of our students.

3. Vouchers are part of the issue around choice. I strongly support parental choice. Colorado Courts have declared vouchers illegal, Parents still have many choice options(Permits in/out, Charters, Home Schooling, ... etc.). I support Charter Schools based on organization, financial soundness and student achievement instruction.

4. Use Zero Based Budgeting Processes. Starts with a "clean plate" and builds on priority functions focused on classroom instruction. Use total financial transparency on the district web page. Purchase "Mission Essential" Program and Tools only, focused on classroom instruction successes in student achievement.

5. Our policies address formation and operation of all district clubs (engagement, faculty advisors, meeting times/places and support). We have Gay-Straight Alliances in 2 of our high schools and there are ongoing activities to establish a third high school club. Principals cannot deny applications based on "fearing it will be too controversial".

6. I support access to health based education programs which include age-appropriate science-based sex education that is approved by the parents/guardians of each student. Each parent/guardian must specifically approve, not having to disapprove.

7. Support district's approach to eliminate "highly-processed" foods from our menus. Such foods eliminated by January of 2012. Buy from local farms and cattle ranches - No factory processed. No growth hormones, antibiotic free and free of artificial preservatives, no added sugars and focus on foods which are natural or whole.

8. Input on budgets and policies. DACs have parent membership as well as school SACs. Principals and Staffs must be most effective interfaces with "their" family communities. Use constant personal contact with parents. More than phone calls, emails, notes. Principals are key and must make it happen.

9. Ours is a pluralistic society in which a variety of religious beliefs and non-beliefs are held. School districts should foster among students, staff, parents and community respect for, mutual understanding of, sensitivity to and tolerance of various religious beliefs and non-beliefs.

Religion in history, literature, culture and the arts cannot be ignored and should have a place in education. The use of religious material which has an educational value, a secular purpose and a religiously neutral effect may be an appropriate part of the curriculum. The curriculum is not the proper forum for religious worship.

As a subdivision of government, District 11 shall observe neutrality in matters of religion, neither opposing nor promoting religion.

Our district has instilled a religiously neutral academic environment

1. I want to continue to build confidence in the district. This means ensuring that D11 budgets and spends the public's money responsibly, directing diminishing resources to best support student learning. Now, more than ever, I want to enlist parent and community involvement to help make decisions that increase student success.

2. This legislation recognizes the need to protect all students at risk of being bullied. D11's policy committee will bring forward necessary amendments to our bully prevention policy that will demonstrate compliance with the law. I expect the Board to adopt and follow such amendments. The safety of students is essential.

3. Innovations in charters that help students achieve should be incorporated in other schools. I want to focus diminishing resources on supporting and improving current programs before adding new charter schools. Vouchers are unconstitutional in Colorado and I do not support amending the constitution to allow them.

4. We have determined cuts by program and have also used zero-based budgeting. We collect data on program success and I expect the Board to consider that along with the wishes of parents and students when deciding where to make future cuts that may be necessary.

5. I would support the students in their efforts. There are examples of other successful GSA clubs that operate with no controversy. If a group qualifies under Policy JJA, the principal should not deny the application. The Board should direct the Superintendent to show that our policy is being followed uniformly.

6. I support what the bill legislates. Districts that offer instruction about sexual health must ensure it meets the needs of our students and families. Parents decide whether their children receive this instruction. I expect the District to work with families to provide instruction that promotes student physical and emotional health.

7. I love the District's Good Food program. Fresh local foods are offered whenever possible and less processed food is served. We teach students what a good diet includes. Teachers counsel parents to send only healthy snacks with students. D11 no longer offers sugary drinks and empty calorie snacks.

8. Mandated accountability systems require policies that support our accreditation system and District Improvement Plan. Because it is a significant commitment, recruiting for the DAC is sometimes difficult. We should encourage parents to attend a few meetings to understand the work. Communicating regularly will make them comfortable playing a larger role.

9. Our policy states we shall maintain neutrality in matters of religion. We acknowledge the importance of religion in history, literature, and culture and understand its place in our curriculum. Creationism may be discussed in that context. The regulation to our "Teaching about Religion" policy outlines how religious materials may be used in schools. Students may pray in school so long as others' rights are not infringed upon. I don't believe our policies need changing, but dialog with parents, students, and staff ensures that our instruction respects individuals' beliefs. Teachers should be clear about the law when discussing religion. Employees can learn about the relationship between religion and public education in the context of court rulings by attending workshops offered by the district and other organizations.



D-11 Judith Walton

4818 Linfield Court . 80918
 waltojk@comcast.net
 719-338-1599
 Education: BS Language Arts Education, MA
 Guidance & Counseling

WINTER



D-20 Tracey Johnson

6917 Lakenheath Lane . 80908
 traceyannajohnson@yahoo.com
 719-494-0725
 Education: BA in Political Science and Spanish
 from Rice University, JD from University of
 Houston Law Center.

Larry Winter did not respond to survey

1. After working for District 11 for 19 years as a counselor, I feel that I have a vested interest in the children of the district to keep our schools dynamic centers for learning. State funding cuts, low graduation rates, and underperforming schools are all pressing issues for the district.
2. District 11 will need to continue to enforce a "zero tolerance" policy on bullying. Teachers and counselors need to bring incidents to administrators so that proper discipline action can be taken. Parents and students need to be made aware of the policy and the subsequent consequences.
3. Charter schools can add a viable option for students; they need a well thought out program and curriculum, a facility secured, and adequate funding in place. Voucher programs have problems because private schools up their tuition and are often unwilling to deal with special education issues and standardized testing.
4. When budget cuts need to be made, every position and program in the district needs to be examined. Programs that have been shown to promote learning and personnel positions that work directly with students should be the last to be cut.
5. I think a group such as a "Diversity Council" is a good choice for a school to develop in order to support students who feel they are not represented in other formats at their schools. I would support the administration at the school in this decision.
6. I think age-appropriate, science-based sex education programs are crucial in our schools. Students need to get correct information and, oftentimes, this does not happen at home. A parent does need to have the option, however, of opting their student out of hearing the school presentation if they are opposed.
7. School District 11 has taken the lead in providing healthier school lunches, and I applaud their efforts. Soft drinks have been removed from vending machines and more vegetables are now being cooked into school foods. I would continue to promote these new standards and this healthier vision.
8. The District Accountability Committee, and local Building Accountability Committees, play a vital role in giving parental input to the district. Getting parents involved at the elementary level is key to keeping them involved as their children progress through the middle and high school levels.
9. The school I worked at in District 11 tried to honor all students and their religious affiliations while remaining a neutral setting. Several groups met off campus before school and at lunch during student free time and the school respected their right to do so. Religious holiday celebrations were not held.

1. I'm running for our kids, our community. I believe it's incumbent on those, who benefit from the top-notch public education provided by ASD20, to ensure its continued excellence by actively working in D20's support. Key issues: 1) adept implementation of educational mandates; 2) fiscal priorities focused on students' success.
2. I will support D20's longstanding policy emphasizing the importance of a secure school atmosphere for every student. This multi-faceted philosophy is directed toward families via "parent academy" programs, toward staff through professional development training to recognize signs of bullying, and through student-focused anti-bullying initiatives like "Rachel's Challenge".
3. My core belief is that every child should have a very good public school to attend. My approval—regardless of the type or model of school proposed—hinges on the applicants' recognition that Constitutional freedoms must be respected and the bedrock maxim "(a)ll men are created equal" upheld.
4. The budget process must comply with all open-meeting requirements, be conscious of the community's fiscal priorities, and targeted toward top-to-bottom educational excellence now and in the future. Budget cuts should derive from functional consolidation and, when necessary, elimination of services exceeding state requirements.
5. The situation described properly falls within D20's administrative branch rather than its Board. Principals should fairly examine applications, basing denial only on well-founded data that a safe learning environment will be jeopardized by the group's formation. Citing "controversiality" seems an insufficient explanation and students may wish to appeal it.
6. I certainly support D20's compliance with state standards and its implementation of an abstinence-based program, which includes the ability for students to opt-out of sex education classes.
7. Provision of healthy food options seems like common sense as does support for local producers. Just as all students deserve a very good public school, the same holds true for meals provided during school hours. School Boards can positively influence this area by adopting policies promoting healthy life-choices.
8. As Timberview Middle School's parent representative to D20's District Accountability Committee, I know this forum—which is typically robustly attended—to provide an effective and vital conduit of information between parents, district officials, and school staff and administrators, especially in budget and accreditation areas.
9. During the ten-plus years our children have attended D20 schools and I've been volunteering in them, my overriding impression is that the district honors freedom of expression within its buildings through practical application of The Golden Rule, by striving to create an atmosphere of respectful deference towards others' religious beliefs, and in accordance with federal case law preserving religious neutrality in public venues, which, to me, is an integral ingredient to the positive environment most conducive to fostering student achievement. For example, district calendars are crafted to avoid conflict with religious holidays, creationism is taught within world religion classes in recognition of its faith-based principles, and student prayer is permitted so long as it does not proselytize. I support this ethical approach.

Candidate Questions



D-20 William "Bill" Murray
 3175 Soaring Bird Circle . 80920
 wpmurrayIII@aol.com
 (h) 719-590-4134 (c) 719-357-0635
 Education: Master's in Administration



D-20 Glenn L. Strebe
 13885 Staffshire Lane . 80908
 strebefam@gmail.com
 www.electglennstrebe.org
 719-332-4278
 Education: MBA, Colorado State University; BS, US Air Force Academy

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9. How is your district proactively working to ensure a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and how could they be improved?

1. My message is simple: Our Community, Our Schools and Our Children. The future belongs to the inventive, creative and passionate. Education is a tool set and we need to give as many of these tools to our children and their teachers in order to enable the next generations to survive and thrive.

2. Situational awareness should be demonstrated and enforced at all levels. Anti-bullying policies relate to and effect all students.

3. The success and failure of any school is a direct reflection of the competencies of both administration and staff. Shortcomings need to be identified and corrected without throwing the baby out with the bathwater. Charter schools are an effect of this process.

4. How to fairly allocate cuts without effecting the level and quality of the educational process.

5. First, go to the current policy, give it a chance and act accordingly. Fearing controversy is not a reason to dismiss an application. But the application must be consistent with current policies. The policies will be applied to all, fairly and constructively.

6. I would support a recommendation that supports the implementation of House Bill 07-1292. This would help ensure Colorado's young people receive the information they need to make responsible, healthy decisions to protect themselves and their partners in their intimate relationships throughout their lives.

7. Make appropriate changes where necessary.

8. Keep parents informed and place them on the committees based on their experience and interests.

9. Treat everyone equally.

1. We have a responsibility to provide opportunity to our kids. This opportunity begins in our school system. With our children in college we are able to dedicate our time to the growth and development of the 23,000+ students in D20. It is simply a sense of duty.

2. Although I saw no specific mention of LGBT (only indirect mention of sexuality) in HB 1254, my belief is bullying should not be tolerated by any school district. D20 policy shadows the writings in HB 1254.

3. Charter schools and vouchers provide an alternative for parents. I believe any programs receiving government funds should be held accountable for expenditures and performance similar to public schools—as any taxpayer demands. At this time, I have not established a personal framework for charter school analysis.

4. School budgets should be focused on student achievement, retaining the best staff, and long-term viability of the school district. I would expect the administration to show the impact of various cuts as it pertains to the classroom and the long-term implications.

5. I would not allow it. I do not believe this has a place in public schools since it has nothing to do with student achievement. I do not believe the administration should allow it for the same reason I cited.

6. I believe it is valuable to teach the age-appropriate, science-based issues associated with sexuality. Ideally, these things are taught at home. However, the number and complexity of topics (STDs, AIDS, alcohol and drug use, etc.) and necessity for medical accuracy can be overwhelming for parents.

7. Parents have the responsibility to teach their children to eat healthy. Changes have already been made in D20 to decrease consumption of soda. I believe high school students will eat "junk food" regardless of D20's efforts. A healthy diet could be a block of instruction in a class.

8. Parents in D20 are very involved. The Board will continue to seek their counsel and incorporate recommendations. Many issues have been addressed and solved by parent/patron committees in D20.

9. As long as there are tests in school, I believe there will be prayer—regardless of religion. My experience and knowledge is based on what my son and daughter (Pine Creek HS 2010 and 2011, respectively) told me. During their years in D20 schools, they were always told to respect other people—regardless of their religious preference. They were taught to be inquisitive of differences and reflect on personal beliefs as they pertain to others. They experienced the various ways people of other faith and backgrounds celebrated their holidays. Overall, I believe D20 exposed my children to a great amount of diversity in a school district that isn't so diverse. It can be improved by continually emphasizing the above.



D-20 Kim Wright
 8480 Sweetgum Terrace . 80920
 kimwright4D20@gmail.com
 www.KimWright4D20.org
 719-233-9792
 Education: B.S. Kansas State University

1. I am passionate about our kids getting the very best education that they can. I have been a volunteer in one form or another ever since my children started school.
2. I do have not enough information to answer this question.
3. My children attend public schools and I feel like D20 is an excellent district. In regard to the voucher system, I think private school is a choice made by parents and they should pay for it.
4. Additional budget cuts should try and be made away from the classrooms. The budget process should include all teachers and staff and ask how and where savings might be made.
5. I would leave this up to the administration at each school.
6. Health Education Programs are important as long as there is parent approval to the class. I think it can promote good conversation at home.
7. Don't know enough about the food service at schools to answer this question.
8. District Accountability is an important part of the transparency to the parents and patrons of any district. I think the more information given to the parents and public they are more likely to get involved.
9. Don't know enough to answer this question.



D-49 Joan A. Johnson
 joanjohnsond49@hotmail.com
 Education: (2) Master of Arts in Procurement and Acquisition and Master of Business Administration; (1) Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources; (4) Associate degrees in Management, Contracts Management, Personnel Management and Criminal Justice

HOLLOMAN
IRONS

Andrew Holloman did not respond to survey
 Charles Irons did not respond to survey

1. I am running for D49 school board because I have the leadership qualities, organizational skills, educational background to be the voice of the students, educators and parents of the community. Some issues facing the district are creating an environment of trust with parents/educators, budget reduction, overcrowded schools and transportation.
2. D49 has published in the Student Conduct and Discipline Code 2011-2012 handbook the Bullying Prevention and Behavior policies and have shown a video at the beginning of the 2011 school year. I would continue these two measures and mandate recurring training to reinforce the district's policy of zero tolerance.
3. Charter schools and school voucher programs provide parents a choice of what type of learning environment suits their child's learning style. D49 have several chartered schools that adhere to the same regulatory guidance as the public schools. The school would submit the required documentation and provide justification for the need.
4. I would request the previous year's budget, information on the budget cuts, what process was used to determine the cuts and what was the impact on schools, students, educators and parents. When allocating cuts, I would consider how the cuts affect academic achievement, students, educators and parents.
5. Listen to the student's side of the story and ask if the denial was provided in writing. The administration would contact the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and advise of the complaint, request the CEO investigate the matter and report to board the reason for denial, and consult an attorney.
6. Yes, I believe middle and high schools are the appropriate place for students to be taught factual information about pregnancy and the risks associated with unprotected sex. The purpose would be to promote abstinence, reduce unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.
7. D49 lunch program is contracted and the food selection is governed by USDA. I would request the "ala carte" items are nutritious such as Subway, Soup and Salads. Obtaining local fresh foods may not be possible because of the limited cafeteria area within the schools to store perishable items.
8. The DAC should review every policy before submitting it to the board. The DAC consists of parents, educators and administrators that can provide feedback on how each policy affects academic achievement, students, educators and parents. Actively involving committees in the decision-making process should increase parental involvement.
9. To my knowledge, student prayers and teaching of creationism are not allowed. Functions/Activities may occur at the schools, but, they must be called something that does not have any type of religious theme. For example, Halloween celebration is not authorized, but, Harvest Festival is authorized.

KELLER
LAVERE
PAGE

Robin Keller did not respond to survey
 Marie Lavere-Wright did not respond to survey
 Ronald Pace did not respond to survey

Candidate Questions



D-49 Kelle L. Stanley
 11420 Texarkanna Road
 Falcon, CO 80831
 kelle.stanley49@yahoo.com
 kellestanley.com
 719-495-5097
 Education: Some college

1. Why are you running for school board, and what are the most pressing issues the district should address this year?

2. Please explain what your district has done and what you will do to comply with Colorado HB1254, signed into law in May 2011, which requires school districts to include LGBT students in their anti-bullying policies.

3. Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to reject or accept an application for a new charter school in your district?

4. Many school districts struggle to remain competitive in a turbulent economic climate. What kind of budget process would you request from your district's administration, and what factors should be considered when allocating cuts?

5. Suppose a group of students wants to form a "Gay-Straight Alliance" and their principal denies the application, fearing it will be too controversial. The students contact you. What will you do? What should the district administration do?

6. Do you support instruction and expansion of access to comprehensive health education programs, including age-appropriate, science-based sex education standards created by passage of House Bill 07-1292? Why or why not?

7. What will you do to ensure your district is providing healthy meals and snacks to all students? What, if anything, should schools do to limit "junk food" options and increase student access to local, fresh food?

8. What role should state-mandated District Accountability Committees play in developing district policy, and what can the school board do to increase parent involvement on these committees?

9. How is your district proactively working to ensure a religiously neutral academic environment that honors all students? Specifically, how do current district level policies treat student prayer, teaching of creationism, and holiday celebrations, and how could they be improved?

1. I am running for school board to bring transparency and open dialogue to the BOE in the hope of regaining trust within the district. Finances, overcrowding and integrity are the most pressing issues we must deal with this year.

2. District 49 has a comprehensive policy in place to combat bullying in all forms. It includes a prohibition against bullying on the basis of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or need for special education services.

3. I support charter schools and voucher programs to give parents more choices in the best way to educate their own children. A new charter school would need to be financially independent and have student achievement as its main focus.

4. I expect the administration to have a streamlined budget process, to easily control expenses throughout the district. Dollars in the classroom are most important. Every department should be operating within, or under, budget, consistently looking for ways to cut spending.

5. Current D49 board policy stipulates that all student organizations must be related to the regular student curriculum. If the group and their faculty sponsor are able to present a reasonable argument as to how the alliance complies with that requirement, I would support their organization.

6. I support House Bill 07-1292. However, I agree with current D49 policy that parents have the right to exclude their child from any or all aspects of sex education.

7. Our district has a very capable nutrition services director who strives, constantly, to provide a wide range of healthy foods. I feel this is the responsible approach to a school nutrition program. I would, however, like to see more physical education requirements in our schools.

8. I think parental involvement in all aspects of the district should be encouraged and utilized. By open dialogue, good notification procedures and respect, we can bring parents on board if they know they will be heard.

9. District 49 Policy allows all students to quietly and without coercion practice their religious beliefs on school grounds, as long as it does not interfere with regular education time. Federal holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day are all listed on district calendars and can be acknowledged in school programs and decorations. Objective teaching about religion is permitted. I believe that both creationism and evolution should be taught in our schools, as well as Hanukkah, Kwaanza and Rhamadan. It is then up to the parents to guide their children about their own beliefs.

MISSION:

Citizens Project spotlights issues in the Pikes Peak region and mobilizes people to strengthen the traditional values of our nation: equal rights, individual freedoms, separation of church and state, civic engagement, and respect for diversity.



Citizens Project

P.O. Box 2085
 Colorado Springs,
 Colorado 80901
 Phone: (719) 520-9899
 Fax: (719) 520-0118
 www.citizensproject.org
 email: info@citizensproject.org

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