



Election 2016  
School Board Candidate Survey  
Dysart Unified

<p><b>T. William Coniam</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Information</b> Surprise, AZ www.coniam.com www.facebook.com/VoteConiam williamconiam@gmail.com</p>
<p>Do you have any personal experience (training and/or participation) in any of the following art forms?</p>	<p>Instrumental Music</p>
<p>In which arts activities have your children participated in school?</p>	<p>Music, Visual Arts</p>
<p>Are you aware that music and visual arts education are required in Arizona K–8 schools under the sections of the Arizona Administrative Code governing education?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Are you aware that Arizona has approved academic standards for the teaching of arts in K-12 schools?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Data from the Arizona Education Census, however, indicates that not all schools are providing the required instruction in music and visual arts, and 40% are not using “highly qualified” teachers in those two required areas. As a school board member, will you support and advocate for arts education taught to Arizona state standards in all of your district’s schools for all of your district’s students?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>The Every Student Succeeds Act, federal education law that replaced No Child Left Behind, defines arts and music as part of a “well-rounded” education on a par with other core academic subjects like mathematics, science, language... etc., as elements that contribute to overall student learning and performance.</p> <p>As member of the school board, will you support district-level policies that insure that your students are provided a “wellrounded” education including arts and music?</p>	<p>Yes</p>



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The Arizona Education census data from 2010 indicates that nearly 80% of Arizona schools spend less than \$1 per student on the materials and resources need to provide quality arts education in our schools.

How will you work to insure adequate dollars are budgeted to provide the tools and materials necessary to support standards-based arts education in the classroom?

I worked diligently to help pass the Dysart override this last election. 41% of those funds went to these programs, providing millions of dollars for these programs.

The override spending breakdown is:

- 41% student programs (art, music, band, PE, athletics)
- 40% keeping current class size ratios low
- 12% all day Kindergarten (free of charge to parents)
- 7% critical resources for K-3 reading program and supporting lower K-3 class sizes

To read more about me and my work on the override, please visit [www.Coniam.com](http://www.Coniam.com) or [www.facebook.com/VoteConiam](https://www.facebook.com/VoteConiam)

Please take this opportunity to provide any additional comments about your views on arts education in our K-12 schools, or any other education issue you consider a priority as you seek a position on your district school board. (250-word limit)

I have been endorsed by great organizations and individuals, including: Stand for Children Arizona, an Arizona State Senator (strong education advocate and who happens to be an artist), Former City Manager, and many other education advocates in our community.

Read their statements of support at [www.Coniam.com](http://www.Coniam.com)



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<p><b>Jay Leanoard</b> <b>Secure Source USA</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Information</b> 14721 N 140th Lane Surprise, AZ 85379 623-853-3448 jay_leonard@cox.net</p>
<p>Do you have any personal experience (training and/or participation) in any of the following art forms?</p>	<p>Vocal Music, Photography, Film</p>
<p>In which arts activities have your children participated in school?</p>	<p>Music, Dance</p>
<p>Are you aware that music and visual arts education are required in Arizona K–8 schools under the sections of the Arizona Administrative Code governing education?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Are you aware that Arizona has approved academic standards for the teaching of arts in K-12 schools?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Data from the Arizona Education Census, however, indicates that not all schools are providing the required instruction in music and visual arts, and 40% are not using “highly qualified” teachers in those two required areas. As a school board member, will you support and advocate for arts education taught to Arizona state standards in all of your district’s schools for all of your district’s students?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Comments: “highly qualified” teachers are vital to the success of our students</p>
<p>The Every Student Succeeds Act, federal education law that replaced No Child Left Behind, defines arts and music as part of a “well-rounded” education on a par with other core academic subjects like mathematics, science, language... etc., as elements that contribute to overall student learning and performance.</p> <p>As member of the school board, will you support district-level policies that insure that your students are provided a “wellrounded” education including arts and music?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Comments: “well-rounded” education including arts and music are vital to our children</p>



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I believe we need to use a data-based decision making approach and eliminate the emotion. Setting very high and ambitious goals with the principals and teachers as they create a vision for the school they represent.

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“Art does not solve problems, but makes us aware of their existence,” sculptor Magdalena Abakanowicz has said.

As a parent and the son of an educator I believe we need to be aware of our problems. We can use a data-based decision making process to ensure we are being successful with the resources we are using. Our principals and teachers are very capable and we need to support their vision.



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<p><b>Christine A.K. Pritchard</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Information</b> Surprise, AZ 85374 Pritchard4Dysart@cox.net</p>
<p>Do you have any personal experience (training and/or participation) in any of the following art forms?</p>	<p>Vocal Music, Dance, Theatre, Creative Writing</p>
<p>In which arts activities have your children participated in school?</p>	<p>Music, Dance</p>
<p>Are you aware that music and visual arts education are required in Arizona K–8 schools under the sections of the Arizona Administrative Code governing education?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Are you aware that Arizona has approved academic standards for the teaching of arts in K-12 schools?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Data from the Arizona Education Census, however, indicates that not all schools are providing the required instruction in music and visual arts, and 40% are not using “highly qualified” teachers in those two required areas. As a school board member, will you support and advocate for arts education taught to Arizona state standards in all of your district’s schools for all of your district’s students?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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In my previous years as a Governing Board Member, I was a strong supporter of the arts. I will continue to advocate for the arts, and hold the district accountable to ensure standards-based arts education is present in the schools, and that "quality" programs exist.

My name is Christine Pritchard and I am one of five candidates vying for a seat on the Dysart Governing Board. As a former drama/theater and choir student, I understand the value of the arts.

Data indicates that students who have been involved with the arts score higher on standardized tests than students who were not. Evidence also illustrates that students involved in the arts perform better in subjects such as reading, language and math.

With there being such a strong correlation between the arts and brain development, how can schools NOT support the arts? Not only is this an area that should be further researched to uncover its full potential, but for many, the arts can be used as a gateway for those whom traditional learning is ineffective.

Arts can be brought into core subject areas such as math, reading, science and social studies as a means of individualizing student learning, and putting a creative spark into an otherwise disengaged student, providing them with the motivation to learn.

As a Board Member, I would advocate for, and support, a standards-based arts education. I would continue to reaffirm that today's well-rounded student is one that has repeated exposure to quality art programs. I value high academic standards and am a firm believer that all students can learn, no exceptions! I am a strong advocate, I have a persistent voice, and I am determined to make a difference!

Therefore, I would be honored to earn your vote on November 8, 2016.



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<b>William Swinney</b>	<b>Contact Information</b> wswinney@cox.net
Do you have any personal experience (training and/or participation) in any of the following art forms?	Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Theatre
In which arts activities have your children participated in school?	Music, Theatre
Are you aware that music and visual arts education are required in Arizona K–8 schools under the sections of the Arizona Administrative Code governing education?	Yes
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Voice my concerns to the local schools.

Very interested in promoting the arts in our schools. Much of my educational career was spent promoting and advancing the arts.



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<p><b>Jennifer Tanner</b></p>	<p><b>Contact Information</b> 12517 W Sunnyside Dr. El Mirage, AZ 85335 623-583-9381 jenjatan@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Do you have any personal experience (training and/or participation) in any of the following art forms?</p>	<p>Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Dance, Theatre, Creative Writing</p>
<p>In which arts activities have your children participated in school?</p>	<p>Music, Dance</p>
<p>Are you aware that music and visual arts education are required in Arizona K–8 schools under the sections of the Arizona Administrative Code governing education?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
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I would continue to advocate the importance of the arts in education and the need to adequately fund them.

I would continue to encourage our students and schools to participate in community events to raise awareness of their talents and display how those talents better our communities. Activities such as these not only raise awareness of the programs going on within the school, but also create support from the community in tax donations as well as override elections.

Arts education are some of my fondest memories in my school experience and contributed to my overall academic success. I have no doubt this still exists today and more than ever, is needed for the rising generation.