



Election 2018 School Board Candidate Survey Peoria Unified

Cory Underhill Peoria Unified School District

Contact Information

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Which of the following art forms do you have personal experience (training and/or participation) in? (Check all that apply)		
√	Instrumental Music	
	Vocal Music	
	Visual Arts	
√	Dance	
	Theatre	
	Photography	
√	Creative Writing	
	Film	

In which arts o	activities have your children participated in school? (Check all that apply)
√	Music
	Theatre
\checkmark	Visual Arts
	Dance
	I have no children.
	Other (please specify)

Until 2017, the Arizona Administrative Code required the teaching of music and visual arts in Arizona K-8 schools. Current policy now requires schools offer two of five artistic disciplines (music, theatre, dance, visual arts and media arts). According to the 2018 Arizona Arts Data Project (based on 2015-16 enrollment), under the previous requirement, only 65 percent of Arizona K-8 students had access to music and arts.

As a school board member, would you support a district policy that requires that all K-8 students in your district have access to at least two of the five disciplines, per the new state administrative code?

Yes

I believe we must have choices and opportunities for all children. I also recognize that research indicates the arts can have a significant impact on cognitive development and children's overall academic success.

As member of the school board, will you support district-level policies that insure your district schools properly report all data to the Arizona Department of Education about arts education course offerings and student enrollment so that equity and access to arts education can be evaluated and parents are aware of whether their children are receiving a quality arts education?

Yes

We should be easily able to properly report on the education course offerings and student enrollment in all coursework within the district.

Would you support a comprehensive district-wide assessment of the degree to which arts education is being offered in your schools, including enrollment, instructional minutes, teacher qualifications, resources and materials, and adequacy of student assessments?

Yes

I would support this is resources were available and this fit within our current strategic plan.

If elected, will you promote a policy of including arts education stakeholders in the annual required district needs assessment with arts educators appropriately represented on planning teams, etc.?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

The state A-F Report card for K-8 schools does not currently give a school ANY credit for student achievement in arts education because students often are not evaluated by grades, or "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory" measurements. If valid assessments existed, the State Board of Education likely would give credit for student achievement in arts, thereby creating a greater incentive for quality arts education.

As a member of the school board will you promote the adoption of a process to develop valid student assessments of achievement in arts education, based on the Arizona Arts Education Standards?

No

I do not feel that I know enough about this topic to state that I would support this; however, with additional information I would consider a discussion on this topic.

Currently, the 9-12 A-F school report card only gives credit for student achievement in AP Arts Classes (as part of the College and Career Ready point formula). However, Arizona's arts standards are sequential with increasing conceptual learning and proficiency to either the junior or senior level. Would you advocate the expansion of the College and Career Ready point formula to include credit for successful completion of study in an arts discipline (e.g., visual arts, theatre, music) to the senior level as is done for other academic and CTE courses?

Yes

No Reasoning Provided

Arts Education advocates are working to develop a Fine Arts Seal similar to the Civics and Biliteracy Seals— to be affixed to the diplomas and noted in transcripts of graduating students with advanced achievement in high school Fine Arts. If the state adopts the Fine Arts Seal, will you support the adoption of the seal in your school district?
Yes No Reasoning Provided
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.
I strongly believe that the arts are a critical component of our society and that because many students do not have resources to access arts opportunities outside of school, we should continue to offer access to these opportunities within our public schools.