



Election 2018
School Board Candidate Survey
West-MEC

Frank Straka
West-MEC 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)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Instrumental Music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vocal Music
<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual Arts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Theatre
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photography
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creative Writing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Film

In which arts activities have your children participated in school? (Check all that apply)



Music

Theatre

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?

I am a candidate in a high school district.

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

It is critical as a state we have accurate information, it helps show us where we are succeeding. I believe things like learning to read music, can teach children about fractions in math.

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?

No

Our district is a vocational education district. The focus of our programs are job training for high school students.

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

Where applicable to our programs

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?

I am a candidate in a high school district.

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

Providing that you can show a correlation of success in the junior year arts program to college and career readiness.

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?

No

In my experience, none of these seals are ever sought after by colleges. They give students and parents a false impression that they have accomplished something that is going to be recognized by a college and provide additional aid or college credits. Providing dual enrollment would be more significant

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 believe the arts community has failed students. I believe that some students when they join band, or art. They find a new purpose in school. Some students this is what gets them through school. You should find a way to collect these statistics that show increased success. This will be a way to provide positive evidence to the legislature for increasing funding for arts programs to students.