



Election 2018  
 School Board Candidate Survey  
 Fountain Hills Unified

**Judith Rutkowski**  
**Fountain Hills Unified School District**

**Contact Information**  
 15603 E. Robin Drive  
 Fountain Hills, AZ 85268  
 (480) 836-0568  
 jtrutkowski@msn.com

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 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?

No

FHUSD complies with this policy. Fountain Hills has always had Arizona Arts Education. 2018/2019 School year. McDowell Mountain has arts classes in music, and art. Elementary students already take 2 or more disciplines. Fountain Hills Middle School Students also have special area classes such as music, art, dance, culinary arts, band, and STEM. Middle School already takes 2 or more disciplines. Fountain Hills High School Fine Arts include: Performing Arts; Symphonic/Marching Band, Beginning Guitar, Advanced Guitar, Choir, Advanced Choir, Dance. Visual Arts: Yearbook, Basic Design, Drawing and Painting II/III, 3-D Ceramics and Sculpture II/III, AP Studio Art- 2D Design Photography, AP Studio Art-2D Drawing, AP Studio Art-3D Design, AP Art History, Digital Arts. FHHS Partners with our Fountain Hills Theater to offer Live Theatre Performance and Productions 1-2; Live Theatre Performance and Productions 3-4, and Live Theatre Performance and Productions 5-6. Our EVIT in Fountain Hills Courses include: Photography, Video Production, Graphic/Web Design, and 3D Animation. High School Students have many choices for electives.

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

I believe our teachers follow the Arizona Standards in art curriculum. Any unfunded comprehensive district-wide assessment of this nature would take away from class time and cause more school funding to be used. Teachers already assess and grade students. All elementary and middle school students take the fine arts classes as electives. High School Students choose their electives. I am happy with the fine arts in our district, we have competent and engaging teachers.

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.?

No

Our basic education policy includes ● Fine and practical arts experience - art education, vocal and instrumental music, and vocational/business education. We have community stakeholders committees. If we needed a committee for fine arts programs we would involve arts education stakeholders for representation on the committee. I do not think an additional policy would be needed. Common sense would ensue.

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

The current A-F Report Card already includes several unfunded mandates. Our teachers already adhere to Arizona State Standards of Curriculum for Art Education. I do not believe that additional mandates or assessments in this area would benefit students.

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?

No

More mandates do not equate to better student education. AP classes are college level classes and are worthy of credit.

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

If the state adopts the Fine Arts Seal the district will follow requirements.

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.

The fine arts curriculum in FHUSD provides an excellent complement to our academic curriculum. Our goal is to produce students with a well-rounded education.