



Election 2018  
School Board Candidate Survey  
Mesa Unified

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Mesa Unified School District

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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 checked="" 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?

Yes

Absolutely, students by interpreting and analyzing the creative works of others can find their own creative voice.

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

But, I would not support burdensome paperwork for classroom teachers. This could certainly be done by a district coordinator.

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

Absolutely! The Arts are an essential part of any well-rounded education. The arts connect us as human beings. The arts help us discover our humanity.

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

Of Course! We did this in the Jazz from A to Z program I coordinated at ASU with Mesa Arts Center and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Please see attachments to email.

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?

Yes

Yes. Assessments are necessary to measure success of any program. I believe in valid assessments. For example, in Social Studies education there is no state assessment. As a result, social studies is often sacrificed for those subjects where there is testing. I am not suggesting state wide testing in the arts, but some kind of formative and summative assessments are necessary to demonstrate we mean to offer kids a quality education.

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

We have an award-winning music program. We have amazing schools like Highland Arts Elementary. Let’s explore the expansion of arts education to junior high students by strengthening our ties with the Mesa Arts Center. Let’s use the arts to enhance the learning experience of students and engage children who otherwise might not be interested in school. Let’s start talking and provide the arts as another avenue for success for our kids.

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

We have IB seals, service learning seals, AP seals - this is standard in Mesa Public Schools

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.

As a director of K-12 Initiatives for the ASU history faculty, I helped create Jazz from A to Z, a collaborative effort of Mesa Arts Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center (NY) and ASU. The project, focused on an interdisciplinary approach to teaching U.S. and world history used music, as well as literature, art, photography and architecture. Students analyzed literary and artistic creations of the past. We taught them how to be active listeners of music. As Jazz at Lincoln Center artistic director Wynton Marsalis says, "In music and in life, serious listening forces you to recognize others."

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See website <https://www.mesaartscenter.com/engagement/jazz-a-to-z/resources>