

		issues with communication and will encourage it.
Seat South	Marianne B Allen	Mark Davis
I would like to know the relationship of the candidates with the school district and board. Is the candidate able to maintain an arms distance relationship to ensure an objective point of view?	<p>I have no previous relationships or connections with the school district or board.</p> <p>I have worked with some administration in a community committee setting on a district Safety Committee, which was made up of other community leaders, citizens, and district administration. I have worked with them on the Wasatch County Transit Committee and some district administrators were there periodically. I have attended school board meetings and truth in taxation meetings, asked questions of them, and know them in that capacity.</p> <p>Yes, I believe I can maintain an objective point of view as if elected as a member of the school board. I will collaborate with, and foster a good working relationship with, the other members of the board and superintendent, while protecting the trust that the community has placed in me as an elected official.</p>	A strong working relationship with District and school-level leadership is critical in helping Board of Education members to fully grasp the challenges faced by our students and instructors, especially during this pandemic. I am proud of the connections I've forged with members of our school communities at every level, as it ensures I have the firsthand knowledge and experience to best serve them as a Board of Ed member.

<p>How do you plan to better involve the community as the school district plans for future growth and new schools?</p>	<p>I would like to see a great deal more opportunities provided for community comments and input as we grow and need more schools.</p> <p>I would use more surveys, whether through email, or otherwise, to decide courses of action the community wants to take. I would use open comment periods and citizen-involved committees, and even seek to utilize social media to communicate more. I would involve the community a lot before only one bond option is presented, (or possibly present two bonding options) by using pre-bond open houses so that they are more aware of the process and can be part of the process if they choose to.</p> <p>Making community involvement in school board meetings a lot easier, is also essential. I appreciate the steps taken to finally add a public comment period at the beginning of school board meetings. However in these interesting times, I would also like to make it possible to comment online during the meeting and make it easier to comment about agenda issues the day of, not days in advance before even agendas are out. Simplifying this process to make it easier to participate would be beneficial to the school board and the community. There are many ways this can be done, and has been done, by</p>	<p>Community involvement will include development of advisory committees for new schools, finance, etc., and those committees are currently being created with local elected officials and residents invited to participate.</p>
--	---	--

	<p>other government entities as well.</p> <p>I would also like to broadcast work meetings. By doing so, the public can see how the board reaches the decisions it makes and the process that they went through to arrive at their decisions. I feel this is another way to increase transparency and involve the community better.</p>	
<p>How has the last year of education (in person, on-line, remote, hybrid) impacted your position on what "education" is and how "education" is obtained?</p>	<p>It has solidified in my mind that our quality teachers are the biggest tool in the district's "toolbox" to get through the next few years of challenges. They should be consulted and we should utilize their knowledge, as they are the ones in the classrooms. They are so valuable, and should be commended for the massive amounts of work they have been doing while teaching and converting curriculum from in-person, to hybrid, and on-line. Our teachers have been asked to do an enormous amount of work and are doing it all. If the last eight months have shown anything, it is to confirm what I hope we already know, they are amazing and always go above and beyond in their jobs.</p> <p>As for the different "modes" of learning, I think we can learn a lot from this interesting time. It will be eye-opening I'm sure, and I look forward to looking at the data that will come in from</p>	<p>The Board of Ed agrees with educators that the most effective instruction is obtained in the classroom. While Wasatch excelled at moving online with little notice last spring, we know that many students did not engage fully, some due to access or support at home, or for other reasons. I believe that part of the educational experience is learning to navigate the social aspects of education. Learning to deal with peers etc. While there are benefits to remote or online education, the social skills gained in person are critical in preparing for future opportunities and career readiness.</p>

	<p>being online, hybrid, and in-person.</p> <p>My opinion as of right now, is that it is essential for the lower grades to be in-person as much as possible. I feel that online might work better as students are older, can take more personal responsibility, and have established study habits. As a parent, it has been very difficult for my elementary kids during this time. They are good students, with parents who are able to be involved and they still struggled. In consulting many other parents, overall I have heard a lot of the same, that younger kids need to be in school while older students have adjusted better.</p> <p>In talking with teachers, it has been extremely challenging for a lot of students who struggled in the classroom and then have struggled even more so with online. We need to do our best to not let kids who maybe don't have a lot of support at home, or have special educational needs, to not fall between the cracks. We need to make sure we are providing every support possible to help all students succeed in their education.</p>	
<p>What is your position on the need for another high school and what is the criteria for needing another high school?</p>	<p>The reality is that we need another high school in our valley.</p> <p>We need to work together with our local cities, towns, officials, and community as we make these decisions.</p>	<p>We know that students excel in a supportive learning environment where they are more than just a number. Our Valley could have never predicted we'd have more than 2,400 students in one high school, but that is the reality, and it is creating an urgent</p>

	<p>This is the area that is <i>vital</i> for more community input. Our high school is extremely crowded <i>right now</i>. Do we want 5A/6A sized high schools? If we do, then that gives a course of action to build an addition and use the high school at the size it was intended with those additions to it.</p> <p>If we, as a community, are not ok with 5A/6A sized schools, then we need to bond for smaller high schools like the other counties that WCSD compared us to during the bond election (Cache County and Washington County). There is no reason to build another 5A/6A designed high school with no intention of ever using it as a 5A/6A school. If we as a community want 3A/4A sized schools, then that's what sized schools should be built.</p>	<p>need to address our plan for growth. I personally do not want my children to attend one of the largest high schools in the state, that is not why I live in Wasatch County. I believe that the majority of students have a better experience when they have opportunities to excel in their personal interests. If this is accomplished with more than one high school, which I believe it will be, I am in support of it.</p>
<p>Can we get rid of the masks already???</p>	<p>The state has mandated it and with that, the Local Education Associations have to follow the mandate.</p>	<p>We defer to public health officials in regards to COVID-19. We know that instances of positive cases among the staff and students of the District have primarily occurred outside of the classrooms. We will continue to follow the lead of the governor and the Wasatch County Health Department, which participates in District meetings regarding COVID-19 weekly.</p>
<p>Are you willing to look at less expensive building plans for the new high school? Do you think the new high school should be the same floor plan</p>	<p>I am most definitely willing to do this. I did a lot of research on this during the bond election last year and shared some of what I learned on a</p>	<p>After the failure of last year's bond to build a new high school, we have listened and taken note of the community's concerns, however, we are foremost concerned with the outcomes for our students. We</p>

<p>basically as the current Wasatch High?</p>	<p>FB post as many people were asking questions at that time to gain more knowledge so they could be informed voters. https://www.facebook.com/groups/wasatchcountypolitics/permalink/2423678301000524)</p> <p>As for doing the exact same plan floor plan, I have been told one of the problems with the design we have is the congestion in the common area and the size of the lunchroom area. I would like to see those problems addressed before re-using the design. If this is the design that is found to best utilize the space, can save taxpayer money, and is the size and cost of another high school desired by the community (5A/6A), then yes we should obviously save money where we can.</p>	<p>are going back to the drawing board, and will work with the community to come up with the best solution.</p>
<p>I would like to know if candidates feel it is a conflict of interest for board members to financially benefit from the purchase or sale of land for the school district.</p>	<p>Yes, this is definitely a huge conflict of interest. There should be the highest levels of transparency possible with board members even within areas of "potential" conflicts of interest.</p>	<p>If a Board of Education member or any elected official benefited financially in their role, they would be prosecuted, and any misdeeds would be exposed by the third-party audit that entity undergoes annually. No member of the Wasatch County School District Board of Education has financially benefited from the purchase or sale of land for the school district, and to imply, as such, is libelous.</p>
<p>Given all the changes to education this year, with many families finding themselves homeschooling for the first time, and several paying their own way to have</p>	<p>That is a decision that is made at the state level and tax credits have complex implications that have to be examined and looked at,</p>	<p>Family tax credits would need to be created by the Utah State Legislature and are not within the purview of local boards of education. To assist families who have chosen to learn from home this year, the District's</p>

<p>the same options, would you be in favor of or opposed to a tax credit for homeschooling families that have paid for their child's education and also continue to pay the same taxes for the schools they are not using?</p>	<p>hence being handled at the state level. Locally, minimizing tax burdens while balancing the needs of quality education by being as fiscally responsible as possible to all citizens, (whether they have students or not, home school, or not) is a priority for me as I run for school board.</p>	<p>online Wasatch Learning Academy contracted with Harmony Educational Services as their school district of record to ensure our students learning at-home can still receive financial support, including devices, etc., through Harmony's reimbursement program.</p>
<p>What attributes are essential for a successful school board member?</p>	<p>These are some essential attributes that I feel a successful board member should have, and I feel I have as a candidate running for school board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Commitment to balancing the needs to provide quality education for all students, with the needs of our community. * Honesty and transparency * Being a good communicator, by asking questions, being willing to listen, and to learn. * Having the willingness to participate in discussions openly, respectfully, and with dignity even if they disagree with another person. * Encouraging and providing an environment for others to share their ideas, thoughts, and opinions. *The ability to foster good relationships and collaborate with other local city and county officials as our community grows. 	<p>Foremost, a successful school board member needs to prioritize students, staff and teachers in all decision making. Board of Ed members act as stewards of the community's tax dollars, and ensure that the most money stays in the classroom, which is why we are #2 in the state among all districts in achieving this. A Board of Ed member also needs to take an entire issue under consideration prior to making a decision, including information obtained over months and years to inform all decisions.</p>

<p>What is your vision for education in this community?</p>	<p>My vision is that we offer a quality educational path for all children in our valley to prepare them to be confident, successful, contributing members of their communities as they move forward in life.</p>	<p>To create an environment where students can excel no matter their circumstance, and be given opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. Where every student is noticed, and is able to pursue their interests and gain the confidence and knowledge to move to their next stage of life.</p>
<p>What is the public relation role of a school board?</p>	<p>The school board exists as a bridge between the community and the district. In terms of public relations, the board ideally would keep the community informed and make it easy for the community to be involved and up to date on what is going on with the board and district.</p>	<p>To respond to constituents and represent their interests and concerns with the Board. To meet with constituents. To hold open meetings, open for comment, and represent the community while outside of the District. As our community continues to grow at such a fast pace, it is important for the Board to direct staff to broadcast our successes and other messages to our stakeholders.</p>
<p>In what school or district activities/organizations have you been involved?</p>	<p>As a parent I have been able to be actively involved in my children's education at Heber Valley Elementary and then at Daniels Canyon Elementary. I have interacted with their teachers and staff, and volunteered in their classrooms at both schools. I have been involved in previous years with Daniels Canyon Elementary PTA as well. I was on the district's Safety Committee that was created in response to school shootings. I am a crossing guard sub that was at HVE and now mainly at DCE (for transparency purposes, I am a Heber City Police Department Employee in doing this).</p>	<p>I am a graduate of Wasatch High School, with four students in the District at every level. I have been actively involved with the District as an adult since 2012, including serving on the board of Mountainland Applied Technical College (MTECH) on behalf of WCSD, as a coach for sports programs, and WCSD representative for MIDA.</p>

<p>What are your best hopes for the future of education in Wasatch County?</p>	<p>My hope is that we are able to provide, as stated above, my vision for education. That we offer a quality educational path for all children in our valley to prepare them to be confident, successful, contributing members of their communities as they move forward in life. I would hope that we can balance this with the needs of our community as we continue to grow.</p>	<p>To create an environment where students can excel no matter their circumstance, and be given opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have. Where every student is noticed, and is able to pursue their interests and gain the confidence and knowledge to move to their next stage of life.</p>
<p>How would your aspirations help our students?</p>	<p>My "aspirations" are to be a respectful, honest, contributing member of my community and bring my unique perspective (of having taught in the classroom and as a mom) to the board to find solutions. I feel this would help our students by showing by example, how to be a respectful, honest, contributing member of whatever community they find themselves in as they become adults.</p> <p>The vice presidential debate ended with a question from an eighth grader from Springville, Utah that resonated with me. We need to lead by example so we can teach students and children in our communities. We can not say to future generations "do as I say, not as I do." We need to lead and show by our own examples how to be good neighbors, respectful of differing perspectives, while also being contributing members of our community that work together to solve problems.</p>	<p>Every student is given equal opportunity regardless of background. I believe that a Board of Ed member can be instrumental through teacher support, budget and policy, in helping create an environment where teachers and students can excel. This is currently happening in our district as our academic achievement is making unprecedented gains. In 2015, our District as a whole ranked 17th in Science, 26th in Math and 21st in English Language Arts out of 41 Utah school districts. Comparatively, in 2019 our District ranked 3rd in Science, 10th in Math and 12th in English Language Arts.</p>

<p>How will you build support in the community around the work of the school district?</p>	<p>The first thing I would like to do to build support is, build more trust between members of the community and the school board. Without trust, it's hard to work together, be supportive, and move forward. This again goes back to transparency and I feel improving transparency is vital to this. A great place to start improving transparency is to make school board meetings more accessible and easier to comment and participate in. As we are building trust, then I believe that we can have more of the community support the work of the district.</p>	<p>By continuing to increase our efforts to create an open dialogue, which began with the dedicated time at the beginning of each Board of Ed meeting for public comment. Continuing to meet and discuss with constituents the issues they're passionate about or concerned with.</p>
<p>What are some out-of-the-box ideas you have for managing growth without continued bonding for more buildings?</p>	<p>I strongly believe that by bringing different perspectives and experiences to the table, better solutions can be found for the problems we face. Having been a teacher in a junior high and high school, a coach, and mom, I do have some out-of-the-box ideas that I would bring to the table.</p> <p>One is a short-term solution until a new high school gets built, or additions are built if that's what the community would like, is that we utilize TIS as a 9th grade only building. It requires no additional buildings and gets roughly 500 students out of the high school. 9th grade students could still participate in extracurricular activities. We would then figure out a solution to the lunchroom</p>	<p>Right now, everything is on the table. We need to look at alternative financing, as well as different options for high schools. Building on existing relationships with developers to help mitigate the impacts they're having on our community. Working with developers and other entities to ensure properties for future schools are secured.</p>

	<p>aspect by consulting with the Food Services department. It would cost a lot less to add a lunchroom to TIS if this is a viable option.</p> <p>Two. The district stressed that they were looking as Cache County and Washington County to model after. Washington has grades 10-12 in high schools, Cache County has grades 9-12. Depending on our numbers, we can look at any benefits of adjusting there as well. There is research that points to the benefits of both 10-12 and 9-12 so community input and direction is once again vital.</p> <p>Third. Let's explore our options at the high school with hybrid schedules and possibly online for certain classes to relieve the crowding at the higher grade levels.</p> <p>I would encourage others to share their ideas as well, as this is vital to the concept of bringing more perspectives to the table to find better solutions. One person does not have all the answers, but they can contribute in meaningful ways to finding better solutions. My ideas might not work, or if the community voices their opinion that they do not want these, I would hope the ideas would at least help further the discussions to find solutions for the issues we face.</p>	
<p>What do you feel is the board's obligation for</p>	<p>My opinion is that I don't want transparency to be seen as</p>	<p>We will continue to post all documents on the school district website, hold and</p>

<p>transparency with the community?</p>	<p>an "obligation" as much as it is a "duty and responsibility" to be transparent. I would like to make this an area of positivity and an area of strength between the school board and community.</p> <p>The fact is, transparency builds trust. Trust is <i>vital</i> for the school board to effectively serve the community that elects them. People might not agree with the decisions being made but they should have access to all the information used by the board to make those decisions.</p> <p>One of my reasons for running is to increase transparency with the community. If members of the community don't trust the school board, (whether this deserved/agreed with or not), it is an issue that has to be addressed in order to move forward. The school board needs to rebuild that trust by being as transparent as possible.</p> <p>I use this quote on my website and I feel it applies here as well. "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family." (Kofi Annan) Knowledge <i>is</i> power. Sharing of information that people are seeking <i>is</i> liberating. If our community wants more knowledge, let's share that knowledge so we can all move forward with progress in our community and school district.</p>	<p>broadcast open meetings, including study sessions, which the public is invited to, and communicate to constituents through the District's social media.</p>
---	---	--

<p>Will you commit to communicating with the community on the Facebook groups and responding to emails/calls?</p>	<p>Yes, as a board member, it would be my duty and responsibility, and I will gladly do so!!</p>	<p>I have, and will continue, to communicate with the residents of this community through email, in-person, via phone and through Board communication on Facebook.</p>
<p>Seat Midway</p>	<p>Athina Koumarela</p>	<p>Tom Hansen</p>
<p>I would like to know the relationship of the candidates with the school district and board. Is the candidate able to maintain an arms distance relationship to ensure an objective point of view?</p>	<p>I have no working or personal relationships with current board members. However, I am looking forward to working collaboratively with all elected school board members and our superintendent. I will bring my experience as a teacher, taxpayer and local resident to the table. I want the “public” back in public education. This is why I’m running.</p>	
<p>How do you plan to better involve the community as the school district plans for future growth and new schools?</p>	<p>To reach a larger audience, the board needs to publish all upcoming school board meetings and the agenda on social media. They could offer an option to sign up for notification via email. The board should offer a larger window of time for public comments prior to all board meetings. All public comments should be available to the public on the school website. A pre-bond committee of community members and at least one local elected official should sit on the committee. . Surveys sent to the public, when considering a new bond, need to have multiple options with estimated costs</p>	