

<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>	

	<p>of the options. A survey needs detailed information for a true sample of public opinion.</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>Providing a choice during this time (in person, on-line, remote, or hybrid) for parents and school staff is important. Each family needs to make their own decisions based on their own family health concerns. Offering choices are necessary, but we need to be sensitive to the additional workload we are placing on teachers and school staff. We need to acknowledge their need for additional preparation time and resources to make it through this year. An open line of communication and input from teachers, school employees and parents is vital to assure a rapid response to their needs for the academic success of all students. An example is to connect schools with families in the community with a mobile app available with an easy interface to relay and get quick responses and updates.</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 population growth in the valley has resulted in a need to look at options for our school population. A new high school may very well be the best option, but more than one choice needs to be offered with the community and local government input. Voters need to be presented with comparable choices (pros and cons) and full transparency of the costs of</p>	

	each option prior to putting a bond on the ballot again.	
Can we get rid of the masks already???	It's not a decision a local school board member can make. The Utah Department of Health drafted the order with the Governor's Office mandating the wearing of masks in all schools, school transportation and school events through December 31, 2020.	
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 basically as the current Wasatch High?	The floor plan of a new high school does not need to be the same floor plan as our current high school. First and foremost, building options need to support the academic goals that we have prioritized as a district for our students.	
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.	All decisions made by school board members should be transparent and easily accessible to the public. Full disclosure of any financial benefit involving any board member or their extended family, is absolutely necessary to establish and maintain the trust of taxpayers. Board members have the obligation to make objective decisions that are motivated by what is the best outcome for our students while being fiscally accountable to taxpayers.	
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 the same options, would you	Prior to replying to this question, I would need more details clarifying what resources parents need to provide the best academic outcomes while homeschooling children	

<p>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>during this pandemic. Any family experiencing financial difficulties in accessing the curriculum available through the district needs to notify the district immediately and advocate for their children during this unusual time. Tax credits are not under the jurisdiction of school boards.</p>	
<p>What attributes are essential for a successful school board member?</p>	<p>Effective school board members need to have a clear vision of the district's goals and how to measure the achievement of those goals. They make the extra effort to inform the public of district progress and challenges. They are able to work as a team member and collaborate respectfully with others. They accept the responsibility of adopting a fiscally sound district budget, and provide accurate records for taxpayers to review. And most important, successful school board members focus on what's best for all children.</p> <p>I see these attributes as an extension of the same skills I needed to be a successful teacher.</p>	
<p>What is your vision for education in this community?</p>	<p>My vision is our schools will provide equitable education so students will graduate with appropriate academic skills and confidence to pursue a career of their choice.</p>	
<p>What is the public relation role of a school board?</p>	<p>A school board's public relation role is to advocate for public education on the local, state and national level. School boards should take</p>	

	<p>advantage of their elected position to communicate to state officials to provide adequate funding for public schools.</p> <p>Let's hope Utah doesn't win last place for money spent per student in the nation.</p>	
<p>In what school or district activities/organizations have you been involved?</p>	<p>I have taught in public education for thirty years working with children with hearing impairments, learning disabilities, gifted and talented programs and English Language Learners. I was the director of the Utah Odyssey of the Mind Program for three years. This program emphasizes problem solving, creativity and working as a team (first grade- college). Since I retired, my activities have included participating in the Midway Farmers Market, volunteering to help preserve open spaces in our community, and recently working with the Midway Historical Committee and Pure Midway to include our historical homes on Preservation Utah's Historical Walking Tours App.</p>	
<p>What are your best hopes for the future of education in Wasatch County?</p>	<p>I would like to limit classroom size at the elementary and middle school level and adding flexible scheduling or hybrid options for high school students to ease overcrowding. My hope is that state legislators will prioritize funding for education.</p>	

<p>How would your aspirations help our students?</p>	<p>My focus would be to promote policies and dedicate resources to ensure the academic and emotional support of every child in our academic community.</p>	
<p>How will you build support in the community around the work of the school district?</p>	<p>By soliciting community input for our challenges and celebrating the success of our students and teachers with the community.</p>	
<p>What are some out-of-the-box ideas you have for managing growth without continued bonding for more buildings?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer creative scheduling choices at the high school level and continued perfecting a combination of online and hybrid choices for students that can excel academically in that learning style. 2. Have students design their own alternative classroom pods for electives. Have architects and developers donate their time and materials and work with the students to build them. 	
<p>What do you feel is the board's obligation for transparency with the community?</p>	<p>All decisions made by the board need to be recorded and available to the public. I also would recommend all work meetings are open to the public, as are in local governments work</p>	
<p>Will you commit to communicating with the community on the Facebook groups and responding to emails/calls?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	