

Question	Candidate #1	Candidate #2
Seat East	Kimo Paulsen	Kimberly Dickerson
<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 close personal, working or volunteer relations with board members or district administrator's. Part of the role as a member of the board is oversight for district goals and holding the district accountable for results. When elected, I hope to develop strong collaborative relations built on mutual respect and not be hindered by any personal obligations.</p>	<p>My relationship with the school board and the school district is professional. As a parent volunteer of ten years, I have worked with our school district on many issues concerning our students and schools. I will pledge to take on the duties as a school board member with an objective perspective and set personal biases aside.</p>
<p>How do you plan to better involve the community as the school district plans for future growth and new schools?</p>	<p>Community engagement is one of the five pillars of my campaign. On fliers and my campaign Facebook page I discuss improving access to district board meetings and district business as a means to promote engagement. I believe the more informed the community is the more engagement there will be. Information should be all encompassing, transparent and easy to navigate on line. The community is also asking for more engagement from the district. This Facebook forum is a convenient opportunity for the community to learn about candidates. How about a forum where the community can ask the school superintendent questions and the superintendent picks a few questions to answer each week? This not only helps</p>	<p>Creating strong community relations is essential in our valley. As parents, community leaders, businesses, and schools, we need to work together to foster our children's success. Forming community committees, invitations to local meetings, speaking one on one with each other, communicating, being available for questions are all ways to promote partnerships, communication, and community collaboration.</p>

	<p>with community engagement but also helps with superintendent engagement!</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>This last year has been very... educational! All of our 5 children have participated in some form of new – and personalized - method of learning. I believe technology and the share economy opens vast new opportunities for learning that our kids are much better equipped to adapt. Recognizing this shift in learning I am not just open to but excited for new and individualized opportunities to educate our kids. Through all our various new experiences this last year one thing remained consistent. And that is the value of a dedicated and committed teacher’s involvement. I believe our teachers are a tremendous asset in our discovery of the new normal in education.</p>	<p>There has been a paradigm shift in education, especially in the last ten years. Computers are available for students; teachers went from chalkboards to smart boards; digital learning has found a permanent place in our students’ learning experience. When the Covid-19 pandemic affected our traditional learning environment, our school district was prepared by introducing digital conversion years ago. We are preparing our students to be not just college-ready, but also career-ready. For example, the CAPS and MTECH programs help students discover their interests. Education is obtained in many ways today, and I am so excited for our children to have many education options.</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>My position for a new high school is dependent on the need for more space and the desire of the community. The last question about changes in education has shown that there are many new variables beyond the historical solution</p>	<p>Our student population is increasing, and I will address the issue as a school board member. The criteria for a new high school depends on how large we want our class sizes to be. A large or small</p>

	<p>of building new schools. With Jr. & Sr. year students involved with off campus schools like MTec, UVU campus classes for collage bound students, and continued formal classes offered on-line, what is the new normal? What about a 9th grade campus at the old TIS campus? Do population growth and the new normal require another HS or an extension of the current one? I think all possibilities need reevaluation with the community's active involvement. If we need a new school then let's build an affordable new school.</p>	<p>student population has both advantages and disadvantages, depending on the school community's goals. As a school board member, I will research studies on the impact of large and small schools and the effects on the students, and it's community.</p>
<p>Can we get rid of the masks already???</p>	<p>I know right? Until school boards can change state policy I will continue to do my civic duty and follow the mandates from state officials.</p>	<p>It will be a wonderful day when we don't have to wear masks! For now, I will follow the health department's guidelines.</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 basically as the current Wasatch High?</p>	<p>I am willing to look at and evaluate all options for accommodating growth in student population. I believe decisions on new or revamped building should include all recent information available and not just placing emphasis on the way things have always been done in the past.</p>	<p>I am willing to look at other viable options for a new high school building. I am open to new ideas and researching more feasible options to address student population growth. I would personally like to visit other schools and study options that have worked for other school districts. I am very skilled in research, asking questions, and also listening.</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 it is a conflict.</p>	<p>Yes, it is a conflict of interest because a board member should never gain personally from a board's decision. School board decisions are made in the interest of the school district, students, teachers, and community. It violates the fiduciary responsibilities of a board member.</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 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>That's tricky. Emotionally I would support a partial credit but then I know the very next request would come from residents that have no children. If I am elected, I will do my part to control spending in order to minimize the tax impact for all.</p>	<p>After researching this topic, I have found that the school board does not have control over how the legislature creates tax credits. I favor helping all children and families of our valley, and I want them to have the best educational opportunities and experiences. A family's decision to homeschool is a very private one, and the district supports and understands this personal family decision. The Wasatch Learning Academy, Wasatch School District's complete online learning service, provides materials and computers to help parents be successful in their child's education.</p>
<p>What attributes are essential for a successful school board member?</p>	<p>As a potential \$325 million organization, I believe strong analytical skills to adopt and</p>	<p>A school board member is a critical thinker. A critical thinker observes, asks questions, is objective, can</p>

	<p>oversee the district budget are necessary to help the district and public with its current and future financial obligations. Furthermore, a transparent and collaborative approach to solving complex problems will help the district and community reach its common goals. I believe these skills are my strongest attributes which is why I am running for a position on the school board :)</p>	<p>identify their own biases, thinks analytically, and is compassionate and empathetic. A school board member understands students' and teachers' needs and is in tune with the community's concerns. I hold all of these qualities. As a school board member, I will collaborate with community members to achieve trust and better communication.</p>
<p>What is your vision for education in this community?</p>	<p>My vision is for a quality education at an affordable price. Lets not spend where it is not benefiting students or teachers.</p>	<p>My vision is to provide quality education for our students, stay current with the latest education models, and provide a safe and welcoming environment for students, teachers, parents, and community. I will work to create and maintain a working relationship with members of our community.</p>
<p>What is the public relation role of a school board?</p>	<p>The board has a responsibility to ensure the district is transparent while keeping the community informed of district needs, plans and dealings. The community also has the responsibility to be involved in the process.</p>	<p>When school board members exercise good communication skills, they help the school district have a positive image in the public eye. A positive image creates a stronger bond between the community and the school board.</p>

<p>In what school or district activities/organizations have you been involved?</p>	<p>My retirement three years ago has enabled me to be deeply involved with our children's school experience. Like many parents my involvement includes teacher parent conferences, class scheduling, counselor meetings, and following up on and helping with homework. Unfortunately for my kids, I check SIS and Canvas like I do my email. I'm quick to meet with teachers and principals to patch up issues and also celebrate achievement. One amazing outcome of this time I spend involved with school is the realization that we have amazing and dedicated teachers. One example of this is how a teacher will ask about my child by name years after they have graduated. And, let's not forget sports activities. As a high school and college athlete myself, I enjoy watching and helping with the action from the sidelines. Working as a swim meet timer or manager of our son's soccer team, I understand the important and crucial role parents and coaches play in our kid's development.</p>	<p>I have over ten years of volunteer service for the Wasatch County School District.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *PTA President for Old Mill Elementary *PTA President for Timpanogos Middle School *Council PTA President for Wasatch County School District *Wasatch High School Scholarship Committee (Current member) *Wasatch Education Foundation Board (Current member) *Served on numerous other committees and within the Wasatch County School District <p>I am thrilled that our school district's parents have recently dissolved the PTA organization and have created the Wasatch Parent's Network. Over the years, we have been receiving less and less support from the Utah PTA, and the parents feel this change is in the best interest</p>
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		<p>of our school community. The WPN will continue to support the schools, students, and parents of our district. 100% of financial support from the parents and the community will go to the parents' schools! For more information, please contact your school's WPN board.</p> <p>Being a volunteer in the schools for ten years has helped me see and understand the needs of our students, teachers and what it takes for success!</p>
<p>What are your best hopes for the future of education in Wasatch County?</p>	<p>My hope is a character building, thought provoking education that prepares students for the next chapter of their life without over burdensome taxes placed on the community. I also hope kids will return as adults to share with the community all the knowledge, skills and talents they have acquired!</p>	<p>I hope to continue the positive vision that we as a school community have for our students. I want to provide a physically and mentally safe environment for students and teachers. I hope to coordinate efforts to communicate and collaborate with the community for a great educational environment.</p>
<p>How would your aspirations help our students?</p>	<p>This is quite the philosophical question! My aspiration is that each kid will have opportunity to understand their potential and become more than what they currently know is possible.</p>	<p>A vital tool for empowering children is education. My belief in the power of education will help children discover their strengths and capabilities. They will feel stronger, more confident, and prepared as they enter the</p>

		<p>world. This is the enabling power of education.</p>
<p>How will you build support in the community around the work of the school district?</p>	<p>Over the last few months I have spoken to hundreds of people on the campaign trail about their thoughts on education in the county. There are many passionate and creative ideas that are worth considering. So if you ask me how I would build support in the community, it would be through involving as many people in the process as possible. This includes individuals, community leaders and most certainly other government entities. The method of exclusion with no transparency and then expecting us to trust a plan we were not involved with will no longer work.</p>	<p>I will build support through good communication and transparency. I understand how important this is for the members of our community.</p>
<p>What are some out-of-the-box ideas you have for managing growth without continued bonding for more buildings?</p>	<p>First we must acknowledge that there is already tremendous growth to deal with. My ideas for managing student population growth would be to spread the growth around with different opportunities for personalized learning. For some HS students, on-line home learning is preferred. For others, Mountain technical college is an ideal place to learn a trade. The UVU campus is under-utilized. Why not have college bound students participate in a real college class rooms at UVU. What is the best way to utilize the old Timpanogos or West</p>	<p>One of my strengths is in research. Researching ways that other schools (not just in Utah) have managed student population growth will help develop our district's methods of addressing our student growth. There are different viable ways to address the growth issue, and it's a matter of finding the best solution for our valley. I am currently doing my own research on this topic.</p>

	<p>Campus? Is it a 9th grade campus? What about a dedicated art focused campus? Once these opportunities are presented to the public we can reexamine the need for more buildings.</p>	
<p>What do you feel is the board's obligation for transparency with the community?</p>	<p>It is no secret that public schools districts in general have the least oversight of any public entity. One of the most important duties of a board member is oversight of the district activities and holding the district accountable for results. This is an area where close personal ties or friendships hinder the duty of a board member. In my opinion, if a school district has lost its transparency, the fault is with the board.</p>	<p>Transparency from a school board creates trust and confidence of the community. Community support leads to faith in the school district and its board members.</p>
<p>Will you commit to communicating with the community on the Facebook groups and responding to emails/calls?</p>	<p>I think this is an excellent idea. In fact, I already have. Visit my campaign FB page – Vote Kimo Paulsen for school board. See my notes from the last board meeting. I fully expect to keep the community and anyone else interested informed using social media and email. I will disperse information to those who cannot attend meetings or events but I also hope to hear what people are thinking.</p>	<p>Yes! I commit to communicating with the community on Facebook. I currently have a Facebook page for my campaign to continue posting on if I am elected! I will engage in the community Facebook groups as long as the dialogue is constructive. I will not engage in negativity or attacks. I will make myself available through e-mails, calls, and texts and will respond in a timely manner within reason. I do not have</p>

		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.