

Amy Bhola

Catalina Foothills Unified School District No. 16



As a proud product of Arizona public schools, a former public school teacher, and parent to graduated public school students, I am honored for the opportunity to run for re-election to the Catalina Foothills District 16 School Board.

We are fortunate to be part of Catalina Foothills, a community that is willing to support public education. Both my children went to District 16 schools from kindergarten through graduation. As my youngest joins her brother in leaving home, I am comforted by the knowledge that CFSD has prepared them exceptionally well for college and beyond. Under the guidance of highly qualified, talented, and inspirational teachers, they learned to be independent thinkers, to fail and to persevere, to excel, and to treat others with respect and kindness.

The belief that all students deserve the same outstanding educational opportunities as mine is why I am passionate about continuing my service on the school board. As an incumbent Board member, I'm proud of the work we do in District 16. We have a history of working collaboratively as a board to ensure a well-run district and we strive to put students and teachers first in every decision we make.

I hold both a BA and an MA in education, and I taught math and science for 11 years. Working in three school districts across two states allowed me to gain first-hand knowledge of how effective strategic planning and high-quality curriculum fosters excellence in instruction and achievement. However, I believe my volunteer investment in our CFSD schools over the past 16 years may be my most important qualification. I have dedicated countless hours to our schools and district. And from the onset of my teaching career, I have volunteered on initiatives focused on supporting students and teachers through adequate funding for public education and equal opportunities for all Arizona students.

The role of a school board member is to work collaboratively with other board members to set policy and goals that provide educational opportunities for students, to communicate effectively with stakeholders (community, parents, students, staff), and to serve as an advocate for students.

If re-elected, my priorities will be:

- To continue working with my board colleagues and the district administration to attract and retain high-quality educators. I will prioritize investing in our teachers and providing the resources they need, understanding they have the most direct impact on student achievement.
- Continued advocacy for our students. I will learn, listen, and engage with families and our CFSD community to provide the best education possible for our students.
- To continue prioritizing mental health, working to secure more mental health support for our students and faculty.

I believe that my willingness to listen and learn, my commitment to public education, and my dedication to putting students first, makes me a highly qualified candidate. I hope that you will give me and my Thrive colleagues, Amy Krauss and Gina Mehmert, the opportunity to continue CFSD's tradition of excellence. Learn more at <https://www.thrive4cfsd.org/>.