

Brieanna Chillious

Tucson Unified School District No. 1



My name is Brieanna "Brie" Elizabeth Chillious and I am running for the TUSD School Governing Board. I am a proud alum and graduate of the State University of New York school system (SUNY) in Albany, New York. I attended and graduated from the University at Albany, with my Masters of Science in Information Science, in 2018. My alma mater is also a fully accredited educational institution recognized by the American Library Association (ALA). With my degree, I possess the training and knowledge needed to obtain and satisfy the prescribed responsibilities in any information professional-level position within the field of librarianship. I relocated to Arizona and enlisted in AmeriCorps with ArizonaServe serving as a VISTA service member, completing my service terms at reputable community organizations like Make Way for Books and with the Pima County Public Library. After successfully

fulfilling my terms under AmeriCorps with the breadth of experiences I captured, I successfully secured and landed a Library Assistant position at CE Rose PreK-8 Elementary School. To say the least I loved my job! Though my time with my kids at CE Rose Elementary was short, I can confidently say that I was successful in renewing their interests, as well as their teachers' in how they value their school library by having initiated fun but beneficial learning projects, collaborations and other rich learning opportunities. It truly saddened me, as well as it was deeply disturbing, to have learned that since 2014 the majority of school libraries across the district did not have any full-time certified school librarians in their schools to sustain an active library program and curriculum for its students, let alone a school library assistant running those spaces themselves. I have also witnessed and experienced firsthand how the need to revive school libraries in the district proved why there is such a decline in advocating for these crucial spaces. My former school administrators advocated on my behalf by having voiced their desire to the current superintendent of me staying at the school as their librarian but with increased pay or even a salary re-adjustment, per my degree. The efforts made on behalf of the district were disappointing and did not come through, which ultimately led me having to make the heart-breaking decision to leave my amazing post at CE Rose, my colleagues and ultimately, my kids.

When elected, I will work hard to ensure governing board members and the sitting superintendent be held responsible and accountable for their actions and maintain the commitment to our vested community members on issues that matter most to them and their children. Now is the time we need to reinstate certified school librarians, reactivate, and reinvest in our school libraries. Schools must be able to provide our students equitable access to enriching academic and learning opportunities, materials that actually reflect their realities and lived experiences, as well as having the knowledgeable guiding presence needed to help them discern materials appropriate for them. It's about time we did better by our kids.