

Jennifer Eckstrom

Tucson Unified School District No. 1



As a TUSD parent and community member, I support public education and that is why I am running for the TUSD Governing Board.

I empathize with the many critical issues parents face especially relating to school safety and learning environments. I fully recognize that my experience is not like every parent. I pledge to always have an open-door policy which will enable me to learn from other parent experiences which can then serve to make TUSD a much better district for everyone. I also believe the TUSD Board must implement effective strategies dealing with the current teacher and staff shortages. It must ensure that all teachers and staff earn livable salaries and receive quality healthcare benefits.

All TUSD Board Members must effectively represent our community. They must always place a strong emphasis on providing proven leadership, demonstrated integrity and full transparency. I believe that schools must be safe havens that constantly protect all students from the threats of violence, bullying, and other security incidents. TUSD must have an action plan for all these situations that are made known to parents and guardians and are consistent across each of the district schools.

At 18, I was elected to the South Tucson City Council, serving for 18 years, with 5 years as Mayor. I framed public policy for planning, budgeting, financial management and infrastructure improvements. Throughout my public and community service career, I have dedicated myself to promote quality education and meaningful community equality within marginalized, economically disadvantaged and underrepresented communities. In 2009, these attributes were best demonstrated in my organizing and leading of a community rally, which brought together more than 900 parents, teachers and community stakeholders to prevent the closure of Ochoa Elementary and Mission View Elementary Schools. Our efforts were successful and the TUSD Board agreed with the community. As a result, these longtime inner-city schools in South Tucson have remained open.

It would be an honor for me to serve the community as a governing board member. I am ready to work in collaboration with families, students, teachers, administrators, and fellow board members.