

Gina Mehmert

Catalina Foothills Unified School District No. 16



I'm grateful to have the opportunity to run for a seat on Catalina Foothills School District's Governing Board. As an ardent supporter of public education, I believe every student deserves an equal opportunity to thrive - regardless of race or ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, zip code, or physical or academic ability.

I'm a district mom, a dedicated school volunteer, and a marketing executive in the health-tech industry. In work and in our community, I have a reputation for leading with integrity, empathy, and respect. I possess an innate ability to connect with people, listen attentively, and forge relationships.

My diverse background has shaped me into a person who strongly values and advocates for diversity and inclusion. I've lived, worked, and traveled across the United Kingdom, Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, and the US. I'm the wife of an immigrant and the mom of immigrant children, having moved to the US when our sons were young. I'm a proud LGBTQ+ ally.

My experience with CFSD began when our oldest son began kindergarten at Manzanita 13 years ago. A few days later I began volunteering in the classroom - often with our younger son "helping" me. This continued throughout the many years that we had children at Manzanita. Once our children reached middle school, I shifted my focus to the FFO (Family Faculty Organization) and was elected President, a position I held for three years and then a subsequent year as Past President. During my tenure, I introduced a series of parent education events, significantly expanded our base of volunteers, and partnered with our Direct Donations Chair to exceed our fundraising targets year after year.

I'm proud of the many contributions I've made to our CFSD schools. Over the past 13 years, my willingness to step up and show up for our children, teachers, and community has made a substantive, positive difference. This awareness fuels my passion to become a member of the CFSD Governing Board.

My professional and volunteer experiences ensure I'm well prepared to contribute to the board. In addition to fulfilling core responsibilities regarding the mission, resource alignment, and curriculum innovation, I also commit to these three priorities as a future CFSD Governing Board member:

1. I will advocate for more mental health support for our students and faculty.
2. I will work with my colleagues and the administration to continue to foster an inclusive environment where every student, teacher, aide, and staff member feels seen, heard, and engaged.
3. I will focus on renewing and strengthening the relationship between the board and parents by actively listening to parents' concerns, making objective and informed decisions, and leading with empathy.

My fellow candidates, Amy Bhola and Amy Krauss, share these values and optimism for the future of CFSD. I respectfully ask that you vote for us so that we may have the opportunity to help continue CFSD's tradition of excellence as the #1 school district in Arizona.

Learn more about Gina Mehmert at www.thrive4cfsd.org.