

William Morgan

Catalina Foothills Unified School District No. 16



Catalina Foothills Unified School District has been rated as one of the highest performing school districts in Tucson for years! The shift away from basic core education has helped us lose that distinction. Arizona Department of Education test scores show our high school students are only 48% proficient in math and 46% proficient in reading/English skills. These scores have dropped an additional 5% after the Pandemic! Our graduation rate has fallen from 97% to 93%, and our drop out rate has risen from .6% to 2.53% during the term of our current board.

It will take hard work and collaboration between parents, teachers, school administration, and the school board to regain a high level of academic excellence. A strong school board will set the path to achieve this goal. In the last seven years of meeting records for the existing board there has never been a dissenting vote by the current board on any agenda item. A successful governing board has to be more than just a rubber stamp approval process for school district business.

My seven years as a member and as president of governing boards has given me the experience to help improve this concern. I will work with the Catalina Foothills School Board, parents, students, and administration to develop a new strategic plan focused on outcomes for academic improvement, policies and practices to ensure Catalina Foothills School District is the first choice for Arizona teachers to work, and a school district that welcomes parents voices in creating that vision. The mission, vision, and values identified from this plan must be measureable and constantly monitored for success. Outcomes will be reported on regularly at board meetings and discussion held on corrective actions to be taken if needed.

I will work hard to improve the bi-monthly board meetings to make them more open and transparent. This will include processes that will increase the three-minute time limit for parents to speak at board meetings to allow improved communication and parental involvement in school district policies, curriculum, and practices. Critical decisions like school closures, mask mandates, the timing and content of sex education, and other controversial topics must be discussed more openly and voted on by the board. Information included in the consent agenda needs to be more thorough. An example would be to require the list of vouchers issued by the school administration identify whom they were issued to and to identify all that are missing.

The Catalina School District faces many challenges in the next four years, both new and old. How will the new state law on school vouchers impact our student population? How do we keep and hire the very best teachers? How do we fund these needs? I would like your support to help navigate through these challenges.

It isn't a cliché "Our Children are our future". We must all work together to ensure our students are prepared to meet the challenges they will face as they mature and grow into adults.