

# Marie NaVeaux

## Ajo Unified School District No. 15



My name is Marie NaVeaux and I am running for a position on the Board of Directors for the Ajo Unified School District-15. I have lived full time in Ajo for 11 great years.

Ajo is my home and my community. You may not understand how the passion for excellent teaching and learning still burns strong in my heart, yet it does. My mind is good. I care about the education of the children in Ajo and have fresh eyes towards the school, knowing nothing beyond registering 18 year-olds to vote in election years past.

I consider myself fortunate to have spent 30 years in a public education career filled with interesting and exciting professional experiences. I was a proud public educator and held various district as well as school level positions during those years, working with amazing people along the way.

For the final 10 years of my career I first re-enrolled in a college Educational Leadership program (evenings) in order to earn State Certification as a school administrator. I finished my career as assistant principal, and then as acting principal for a middle school of 400 inner city students located at the end of my block, across the ditch bridge and through the park. My training involved travelling to model schools in Florida, learning from national leaders and observing teachers “who could teach a rock to read.” I witnessed classrooms where the fundamental, effective methods to great teaching and learning are evidenced by the many charts and graphs on the walls tracking student performance. Classrooms where “silence” is not the ultimate goal. When you see “student centered learning” like I have, it inspires me to want such great conditions for the students here, in the town where I live.

True public education requires a “non-partisan” way of teaching students, as all staff are taught during their training and education. This creates a safe and friendly environment for diverse students and staff. The tenets of public education require staff to be politically non-partisan in teaching about politics. They also require staff to be religiously non-partisan when teaching about religion. I think of it this way: we can teach about everything. We cannot advocate for or against, or promote anything beyond the age-appropriate use of critical, or analytical thinking skills in any discussion about anything. Schools teach appropriate civic discourse techniques to children, allowing for everyone’s opinion to be expressed and valued. Families do the religion and the politics! This is education at its finest.

Should you vote for me I will do my best to support Ajo schools in becoming “A” rated, on behalf of the families in and around Ajo who deserve nothing but the best.