

Kathryn Zanin

Sahuarita Unified School District No. 30



Hello, my name is Kathryn Zanin, a proud member of the Sahuarita Community for the past 34 years. I am running for the Sahuarita School Board, not only because I love this community, but I care deeply about quality education. Prior to my current job as Training Coordinator for Caterpillar's Tucson Proving Ground, I was in education for 32 years. My experience in education spans all grade levels, PK – 12th grade in various positions including Classroom Teacher, Professional Development Academic Trainer, Math Specialist, School Improvement Coach, STEM Coordinator, Transportation Director, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Superintendent. It has been a pleasure to contribute to the educational sphere and I am determined to support the next generation as a board member.

Understanding how children learn and supporting teachers has been my primary focus throughout my years of experience. I have seen children flourish and grow when lessons are developed carefully to provide meaningful and purposeful application of skills taught. This insight has inspired me to improve three areas of education as a board member, which include curriculum design, business partnerships with the district, and fine & industrial arts programs at all grade levels.

In the area of curriculum design, I would encourage district leadership to move away from the current "Beyond Textbook" curriculum currently used in the district and allow grade level teachers to have control over developing lessons, units, and assessments that meets the needs of their students. Curriculum development would be completed over the summer to provide teachers uninterrupted time to create a quality program, which includes compensating them for their time, expertise, and intellectual property.

During my career, I successfully partnered with businesses and organizations to provide monetary and material support in preparing children for the demands of college and career aspirations. Partners I worked with include, Pima County School Superintendent's STEM Program, University of Arizona's Aerospace and Engineering College, Raytheon Company, Intel Corporation, and service clubs. These partnerships and many others allowed me to create STEM outreach programs and curriculum designed to ignite children's imagination, interest, and passion to learn in the process of creating a quality education program for all children.

A quality education program would not be complete without Fine Arts and Industrial Arts classes included in a child's academic experience. These programs allow children to use their gifts and talents in real world ways as they learn about different cultures, how to speak publicly, and interpret current events in unique ways. It encourages children who love music, acting, and working with their hands to solve problems to pursue their passions at an elevated level of understanding, which can lead to future careers or hobbies.

Allowing future leaders of tomorrow to experience education in a way that speaks to their hearts now is the hallmark of a quality education for all children. As a member of the Sahuarita School Board, I passionately believe in the dreams of our students and will support their growth to prepare them for all upcoming challenges they may face.