

John Mothershed

Vail Unified School District No. 20

Education is a God-given, unalienable right and responsibility of parents (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Parents cannot shirk their responsibility and school boards cannot usurp their right. School boards are delegates of parents and act as representatives of the People, setting a direction for education that is specifically good for the future of life, liberty, and pursuits within the community and state. In accordance with the law, the school district must do no more and no less than educate its students in cooperation with parents. Additionally, since taxes are involuntary, public school districts have an increased responsibility to stay within their means and make the most of each dollar they handle.

School boards have three key responsibilities:

- 1) Act as delegates of parents and representatives local citizens
- 2) Set the direction (goals) of the schools to support local, Arizona, and American heritage
- 3) Responsibly and selflessly steward the resources provided to it from the People by the local government (not spending into deficit and asking for budget overrides)

In light of declining student achievement, schools must focus on the basics, such as phonetic reading, logic, and mathematics. These basics provide students with the tools to obtain more knowledge and continue learning throughout life. For example: English is a phonetic language, so learning the basic sounds of letters unlocks the many thousands of words in our language. This will quickly reduce the need for expensive remedial instruction.

Focusing on the basics also means not focusing on things outside of the school's responsibility, such as providing students with abortions, gender interference, mental health, etc. Truly compassionate educators realize that these issues are the responsibility of parents and families. Schools must not interfere with parental rights, but instead must actively encourage students to take such concerns to their parents. Families are the bedrock of our society, and governments must take pains to promote and protect family integrity.

My goal in running for Vail School Board is to represent the interests of the good people of my community, particularly rural south and west areas of the Vail School District. As a school board member, my job will be to support families in their educational endeavors, not just grow revenue for the district. I will ensure that our most vulnerable and malleable citizens - our children - are protected from the predatory, destructive doctrines currently trending in our schools.

Graduates of the Vail School District must be determined, responsible, rational men and women of character who are well equipped to understand and contribute to success and longevity of their community, State, and Country.