

Sadie Shaw

Tucson Unified School District No. 1



I first ran for TUSD Governing Board in 2020 because my daughter's school did not have art classes and as a parent, I couldn't change that no matter how hard I tried. Within my first six months in office, I achieved this goal and funded art classes at every TUSD school. I am running for re-election because I've found that there is so much more at stake in our district—there is low morale among staff causing us to lose experienced educators. There are too many of our students who fall through the cracks and graduate or drop out without being able to read, write, and do math at grade level. And the essentials, like PE, a school librarian, art and music classes are either at risk or not available at every school.

In my first term, I tried every single year to re-invest in our libraries and fund a librarian at all of our schools. Every year, I was the only board member who voted YES on this measure. I believe that the path to literacy is supported by libraries, librarians and access to books. If we build a strong foundation for students in elementary school, the rest of the building blocks will fall into place.

The arts, PE and libraries staffed with librarians are fundamental parts of children's education. These specific areas compliment the core subjects of reading, writing, and arithmetic. Oftentimes, these are the things that give students a reason to come to school. It is unacceptable that some students in our district do not have access to learn how to play sports and maintain a healthy lifestyle. In my second term, I will continue to fight to make sure that each school has the essentials and that students and staff members have the resources they need to succeed. I know what it's like to be a frustrated parent and I feel for our frustrated students and staff. With your vote, I can continue to be their advocate.

I've learned a lot in my first term. I've learned that the problems we have in our district cannot be blamed on staff, who are doing their best with limited resources, or parents, who might not have the time, skill-set, and patience to teach. Our problems can't even be blamed on the students, who might realize that they can game the system and still graduate. As a member of the governing board, I have consistently questioned our current practices, scrutinized our spending, and challenged the direction we're heading, especially when it fails to address our core problems. If you want to blame anyone, blame the board. We may have inherited these problems, but I, for one, am committed to fixing them.

My name is Sadie Shaw, I am an artist, community organizer and arts administrator at the Arts Foundation. I was born in Tucson, graduating from Amphi High School and the University of Arizona with a BFA in Art & Visual Culture Education. Thanks for your vote!

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