



## School Board Questions

### Written Response

- 1. What are the major issues you see facing Kyrene schools? What would you do to address these?**

Many students saw less academic growth during the pandemic, and we need to focus on student achievement in the classroom. Targeted resources in the classroom that provide individualized academic support are necessary. Focusing on early literacy for our youngest learners is key.

Arizona is also seeing a mass exodus of teachers leaving the profession, and Kyrene is feeling the impact. Students thrive with an experienced teacher, so it's essential that we retain the best and brightest educators in the classroom. Competitive salaries are key, and we must respect and value educators as professionals. While serving as President, I was thrilled to join my fellow Board members in increasing staff pay by \$10.5 Million in recent months. Kyrene spends its money wisely, and the Arizona Auditor General has consistently recognized Kyrene for being among the best at keeping dollars in the classroom.

- 2. Would you support a board decision you did not vote in favor of? Why or why not?**

Absolutely. No Board member has individual authority; rather, the Board acts only as a body. Board members should earnestly advocate for their position in the public meeting, but they must respect the directive of the Board. Too often in other districts throughout the country, we've seen Board meetings devolve into chaos and politicking, and districts become paralyzed by dysfunctional leadership. In the end, it's the students who lose. As a current Board member, I have occasionally disagreed with my fellow Board members, but I have always supported the decision of the majority.

- 3. What programming and policies do you hope to bring to the district?**

Kyrene is currently adopting a new Strategic Plan to guide the course of the district for the coming years. I have been heavily involved in the Strategic Plan's development this year. This work will continue with the new Board, and I hope to continue serving, so that its formulation is informed by my experience and perspective as a parent, business professional, and experienced Board member, with a focus on preparing our students for success.

As a current Board member, I was excited to recently approve the "Portrait of a Kyrene Kid", which reflects our community's collective vision of the skills, traits, and competencies each of our students should exemplify by the time they complete 8th grade. These attributes include critical thinker, community contributor, and self-advocate. If re-elected, I will be eager to work with Kyrene administration to ensure that our students are ready to lead.