

## Somers School District 29 Trustee Candidate Questionnaire

1. Why are you seeking to be a school district trustee? I want to give back to my community and the school system that has done such an excellent job with my kids and others over the years

2. What issues are motivating you to apply for trustee? There are no "issues" that are causing me to apply.

3. Why should you be appointed as trustee? I have a vested interest in the community and have been involved with several non-profit organizations that involve our Lakeside kids. Currently president of the Montana Alpine Race School at Blacktail. I have a very level head, am impartial, objective ( even with issues I may have a bias towards ) and I truly seek what is best for our kids. I am very well known in the community and specifically known with a track record concerning various organizations revolving around kids. I have an up to date federal background clearance check. I am also up to date with the federal "Safe Sport" training being used by schools, sports organizations, and the Youth Ski League under the US Ski team. This includes "diversity training".

4. Please describe your experience and involvement with your school district. My experience comes through my wife Kesha Metzler who taught at both Lakeside and Somers schools. I have myself been brought into classes ( K-8 ) to guest speak and teach.

5. What do you believe is the proper role of the school board? To give our kids a safe and "politics free" environment in which to get the very best education we can provide. The school board in my mind must provide an unbiased approach to education and make guidance decisions to direct the school as such. To provide equal learning opportunity to all kids regardless of the ethnicity, religious, and race. I also believe the school board should seek to protect and provide guidance to not just the students but also our teachers and administrators. In addition, I think the school board should be looking to the future as our community continues to change rapidly ( due to growth ) and make sound decisions in anticipation of such changes.

6. Is there something that your school board should be doing differently to fulfill this role? Not that I can think of.

7. What is the role of the school district with regard to parents and the community? We should always seek to pay attention to the opinions and thoughts of the parents fully knowing that we simply cannot please them all. What one parent wants for their kid may NOT be what every child in any given school population needs or should have. I think we do however need to honor and respect the opinions of the parents and try to ascertain what the majority consensus is on most pending decisions. We must always keep in mind that parents are generally focused on their own kid(s) needs and not necessarily the entire school body. I believe it is imperative that we listen to parents and hear them out.

8. What do you think are the most important challenges and opportunities facing your school district? Community growth. We are growing very quickly and this means we are now receiving kids from families who are coming from many different places and the culture of those places. Montana is changing.

9. What do you think are the most important issues facing school districts across the country, and what do you believe is the proper approach to resolving them? I think the biggest problem is that politics are entering our school system too much and kids are being exposed to adult conflicts and differences. It is my opinion that we should leave our world views at the door. I gather this from any news channel that I might happen to see especially over the last 2-3 years. From what I have seen, parents have felt that they are not heard. The challenge to school boards is to respectfully listen to parents but understand that school board guidance and decisions must consider an entire school body.

10. Please include other relevant information about yourself. I am a trusted individual and have been for many years in regards to the many different youth organizations I've been involved with. I have a considerable amount of references. I am known to be open minded with the ability to be considerate of many viewpoints, even if opposing. My track record specific to involvement with children is locally extensive.