



Questions for Candidates - D51 School Board, 2023

From moderator Michelle Boisvenue-Fox

Candidate Name and District: **Cindy Enos-Martinez Dist B**

1. A variety of educators and studies indicate that an Arts education helps students with development of motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision-making, risk-taking, and inventiveness along with connecting them to cultures and the wider world. **What was your experience with the Arts as a student?**

When I attended school here in District 51, my experience with Arts as a student were classes that were offered such as art(drawing, sometimes painting), music including choir, band and orchestra, and theater. These were classes offered as optional. I do not recall teachers at that time using arts to help in the classroom, the classes offered helped students express themselves .

2. There is a term in the arts community and education called Arts Integration. In acknowledging students' different learning styles, education with arts integration has students demonstrate understanding through an art form no matter the subject. Examples include creating plays for a history lesson, commercial jingles to teach persuasive writing, or narrating creative stories through photographs. **What role do you see for the Arts in the education of a D51 student?**

I believe in educating the "whole" child. The fine applied and technical arts play a big role in the education of our students . The arts give students a way to express themselves as well as prepare them for the outside world in case they feel they are not college material or want another career choice.



3. As a community leader, I love this quote, "Because schools play a pivotal role in cultivating the next generation of citizens and leaders, it is imperative that we reflect on the fundamental purpose of a well-rounded education." It's easy to think of children as children but forget that they are an up-and-coming generation. **What do you see as the role of a D51 board member with regards to supporting curriculum beyond the core subjects of reading, writing, math, and the sciences to include an Arts Education?**

All the core subjects are necessary and required of students, but in order to educate the whole student, arts education have to play a part. Students must be well-rounded and able to engage with others. I believe at this time D51 has a limited support for the fine, applied and technical arts and I would support a broader spectrum.

4. The Art Heritage Program was created in the 1980s for K-5 students after an economic downturn in Western Colorado -- the Oil Shale Bust -- led to major budget cuts. Today, parents and community volunteers in 25 D51 elementary schools, as well as private schools in the Grand Valley, offer six art units based upon well-known artists. Students learn about an artist's life and times, view presentations of the artist's work, then create their own art. **In order to effectively manage arts education in the 46 schools within the district, would you support a full-time director position for the Arts Heritage Program?**

I believe it would be a great addition to D51 staff to have a full time position for the Arts Heritage Program but seeing the decline in student enrollment which affects the budget, I would not see this as a feasible requested at this time. Should funding be available, I as an individual board member, would support a director for Arts Heritage Program.