



Katherine Dickerson

Candidate for Douglas County School Board Trustee District 6



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CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As we progress in the campaign season, I thought it important to lay out in more detail my positions on the current state of the Douglas County School system, the future I hope to facilitate, and to address some of the issues the opposition has raised regarding my candidacy.

Beginning with how Douglas County Schools are doing as compared to the rest of the state of Nevada, we are in the top percentile in student to teacher ratio with a 14:1 ratio as compared to the state average of 20:1. 100% of our teachers are credentialed, and 97% have three or more years of experience. This is noteworthy in that Nevada ranks 47th in school spending.

Regarding academics, again Douglas County's average math proficiency of 45% far surpasses the state average of 36%, and there is a similar statistic for reading scores. Although these statistics do give some bragging rights to the administration, when compared to the national average, the state of Nevada ranks 45th in academics, and even though Douglas County High School ranks 23rd in the state, we are still ranked well below the national average.

My point is that those opposed to my candidacy are quick to note how well Douglas County Schools are doing and that any changes to the status quo would be detrimental; however I reject that argument. I feel we should constantly be looking for ways to improve the performance of our schools.

In that same vein of "our schools are fine," there are repeated claims that Critical Race Theory (CRT) is not being taught in our classrooms. However, Nevada State Standards require that 4th grade students studying Nevada History "Analyze how racism and discriminatory practices have led to oppression in Nevada," and 6th through 8th grade World Geography students "Explore instances of oppression in the modern world as well as individual and group resistance movements for social justice which have developed in response."

Along with those standards there are a multitude of links on the Nevada Department of Education website to curriculum, webinars, and lessons that will facilitate instruction that is filled with CRT pedagogy; it's just been hidden behind less suggestive vocabulary. My plan to address making sure our schools won't be teaching CRT would simply be to adopt a Resolution similar to the Lyon County School District Board Resolution affirming that doctrines cannot be taught nor implied that "individuals are either members of the oppressor class or oppressed class." This is not about stifling free speech ... it's about not teaching racism.

Finally, I view the position of Trustee on the Douglas County School Board as just that, a position of trust. I will keep the educational needs of children and their families first in all decision-making processes. The argument that any candidate for school board is more or less qualified because they have lived in Douglas County their whole life, or that they have children enrolled in area schools is a diversion. The most important factor to consider regarding who will carry out the duties of trustee are personal values. I am conservative and believe that the responsibility of public K-12 schools is to teach English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, computer science, and offer electives of art, music, and vocational training free from CRT. Douglas County schools should not be involved in social engineering experiments.