School Board Elections 2024 Questionnaire

Please fill out this survey to inform the teachers of the Wasatch County School District. We feel these questions have direct impact on teachers and the future of our district.

Marianne B Allen, County South, Seat G

**What is your background in education?**

I graduated from Utah State University with a degree in History and Secondary Education and minor in Political Science. I taught and coached for six years for Weber County School District at Snowcrest Jr. High in Eden Utah, and then Weber High School in Pleasant View, Utah. I served as the building representative for UEA while at Snowcrest Jr. High and was a UEA member all six years that I taught. I was a cooperating teacher for multiple student teachers through Weber State University while at Weber High School. I come from a long line of educators in my family. My father was a professor, my grandmother was a teacher in Salt Lake City, and my aunt taught in Bountiful. I grew up with education being a large part of my family life, and was taught early on how vital education and gaining knowledge is to our lives.

**How have you been involved with Wasatch County School District?**

I was first involved as a parent. I started volunteering in my children’s classrooms nine years ago and serving within the PTA, and then Wasatch Parent Network, at Heber Valley Elementary, Daniels Canyon Elementary, and Timpanogos Middle School. I also served on the Wasatch County School District Safety Committee.

Four years ago, I was elected to my first term on the Wasatch School Board. I have served on, and for, the following assignments: Library Policy Committee, Wasatch Reads Committee, Policy Committee, MIDA, Interlocal Meetings, Interlocal Regional Planning Committee, Daniel, and Wallsburg assignments.

I also serve as the Utah School Boards Association, Board of Director for Region IV representing Wasatch County School District, South Summit School District, North Summit School District, and Park City School District. I was just reelected for the second time, by the school board members of all four districts in Region IV in January. I currently serve as a voting member of the Joint Legislative Committee, the Executive Committee, the Utah School Board of Education Committee, USBE Law and Licensing Committee, and as Chair of the Master Boards Certification Committee. As I serve in these positions, I have worked tirelessly to advocate for, and represent Wasatch School District, teachers, staff, and our students at the state level. I have worked hard to build relationships with state policy makers and provide feedback on legislation before it becomes law that impacts Wasatch students, teachers, and staff on a daily basis.

**How do you plan to support student achievement?**

I will continue to work for and support, the high academic achievements and progress of Wasatch students by voting to provide the many resources and support needed for our teachers, to teach. Teachers have made massive, awe-inspiring strides with students over the last four years and that needs to be pointed out and recognized. These kinds of jumps in student achievement are only possible because of our educators working tirelessly day in and day out, through their dedication to their students and their profession. By providing up to date resources and the high quality curriculum that teachers want to use, supporting our educators in their work, we can support our students as they continue to achieve at such high levels.

**WCSD budgets 89-90% for salary and benefits for employees. Are you willing to keep the comprehensive compensation plan as is?**

I am dedicated to this! I plan to continue to vote to provide one of the best comprehensive compensation packages that we can as a district. I am proud that we are one of the few districts in this state that still pays and covers the insurance premiums for our teachers. This is such an important aspect of the compensation package we offer and I will always work hard to keep that in place. I am also proud of the work done over the last four years to fill in the salary gaps on the pay scale and keep good experienced teachers in the classroom where their experience and knowledge has a direct impact on the students. I believe in preserving the comprehensive compensation package for employees because this impacts all of the students in Wasatch County School District. Teachers and staff are the people who interact with, and have a direct impact on students on a daily basis. Knowing the importance of educators, supporting them so that they can focus on this job of teaching our students, is vital to the success of our students.

**How do you plan to support teachers?**

I will continue to support a compensation package that provides a living wage for our teachers and their families. I will continue to work with other local officials in providing opportunities for our teachers to live and work in Wasatch County. If our teachers can focus on their jobs, not have to worry about working multiple jobs or how to pay for health care, live in our county, and instead focus on their students and their profession, to teach our kids, I will always strive to support those actions.

I will continue to advocate for professional days throughout the year for teachers to be able to plan and prepare for their classes, as that is direct feedback I have received from teachers reaching out to me as a school board member. My “door” will also continue to be open to hear from, learn from, and support our educators.

I will continue to support providing high quality professional development opportunities for our teachers and staff. I was lucky enough to be involved in one professional development opportunity as a board member in the BYU Associates program with a group of our teachers over the last year. What an awesome experience! Hearing of the love of teaching that was had by our teachers, seeing the skills and talents of teachers, and of changing student’s lives, was so inspiring. The skills and knowledge gained there will continue to have an impact on Wasatch students through their teachers for years to come.

I will continue support teachers in the desired curriculum that teachers tell us they need, use, and want in the classroom to improve the high academic achievements that this district is working towards for all of our students.

As the role of school board member has evolved over the last four years, the need to be involved with policymakers at the state level, year round through interim sessions, has increased dramatically. I plan to continue this work that supports Wasatch teachers. I will continue to work with legislators to show the impacts that their legislation has, and might have, on teachers and students every day.

**How do you plan to support student growth as our community continues to grow?**

A big part of supporting student growth as our community grows, is having a plan in place to accommodate that growth. I intend to continue to use our Future Schools Project as our guiding document to the school board, and the district, to navigate through these years of large growth and expansion in the community. The Future Schools Project is monumental as it is the first time we’ve had this for the district with input from our community, and gives us guidance on steps to take to prepare for the growth coming, it gives us a plan to follow. I want to continue to work to achieve a balance between the needs of our district and students, with the needs of our community as we grow, and this plan helps in that. As we grow I will always support having the lowest class sizes we can in order to provide a good learning environment and teaching environment. As we grow, we can consult this plan, and our community, in order to provide for our students, teachers, and staff.