

Full Name

Ryan Nord

What interests you in serving on the School Board?

While the mission of the school board speaks to the successes of the students, I believe the board plays a critical role in the lives of our educators and the community. My interest in serving on the School Board starts with a desire to serve. As a parent who has seen the successes and failures experienced by our school aged kids, it is my desire to pay it forward and bring another perspective to the Board in helping it reach those decisions that will benefit all those impacted (student, educator, and community). The School Board plays a vital role in making the investments that will drive its' success towards achieving its' many goals. In a perfect world we would have eager kids anxious for academic opportunities, teachers who are prepared and excited to instruct the children, and a community ready to make sacrifices to facilitate the potential opportunities. We do not live in a perfect world. As a Board member, I would view success not as a binary outcome (pass vs fail), success is the incremental improvements made to benefit all interested parties

How will you collaborate with the school board and district leaders to build trust and improve relationships with teachers?

Collaboration starts with communication. I have found that not walking a mile in the shoes of another, leaves me with the need to hear from those who are in direct contact with those we serve (educators and students). Often our priorities and goals differ amongst our teachers and district leaders. Communication is our key to unlocking that door. Building trust begins with listening and really hearing from those we serve. How can we promote policies that have an impact on our teachers and students without hearing from them. Empathy and understanding are critical to breaking down the barriers teachers often experience. The goals decided by the Board must include input by the those we serve (student, educator, and community). With input, our goals are shared goals, and our focus is a shared focus. Finally, with collaboration, there is the opportunity to evaluate the outcome of those

decisions made. Revisiting and fine-tuning policies or decisions should be anticipated and expected. Doing so will promote equity for all parties involved.

What do you see as the most pressing need in our District?

I think the most pressing need is in the course of being corrected with the addition of a new High School. I refer to the class size dilemma. It is shown that the student/teacher ratio is a substantial factor in the students' academic success. Obviously with a new school there will be additional challenges to staffing both teachers and administrators. Growing pains often accompanies growth, and Heber Valley is growing. I strongly believe the School Board should continue to plan and anticipate for growth and everything that it brings with it.

Many families in our community feel pressure from high property taxes and rising home valuations. How would you balance the goal of providing a strong education with ensuring that no family is driven away due to financial burdens, and what changes would you consider to address these concerns?

It is not hard to see the challenges of living in Heber Valley, new construction starting in the low 500's! The value of an education cannot be overstated. But it is important not to ignore the scope of that education. Diversity should not be compromised. All people from whatever socioeconomic background should not be taxed out of our beautiful valley. Diversity is a valuable tool in the educators' toolbox, kids' exposure to diversity brings the world to their front door. With every hard truth, there lies the potential for a sweet solution. While the School Board, Teachers and Administrators can potentially find areas to reduce costs, this issue clearly requires community involvement. With community involvement the school board can redefine the commitments from the staff, community and students. In facing this challenge, it is most expedient to get the necessary data. Data offers a glimpse of where we have deficiencies. With the data we can then explore options to overcome these deficiencies. Have we explored State or Federal Grants? Is an Educational Foundation feasible? Sacrifices will need to be made, it is critical that those sacrifices are from all involved (student, teacher, community)