Applicant
Denise Pietrzak

Why do you want to be on the Board of Education for Academy District 20?
I would like to be on the Board of Education for Academy District 20 to be able to make a significant contribution to the ASD20 community. I bring a life's work and experience that reaches a wide spectrum of education and community. I am the mother of 5 and have 5 grands. My 2 youngest children graduated from [redacted] One on a college tract and the other a dual enrollment, trade tract. I have 25 years of teaching experience including 3 as the Adapted Physical Education teacher for ASD20. At another district I held a position as the Itinerate Department Chair and Physical Education Department Chair. I have coached swimming, volleyball and cheerleading and taught a variety of dance classes. I successfully wrote a grant for students interested in jobs in Emergency Service, the CODE 3 Academy. That led me to working 1 year as a Reserve Fire Fighter and then becoming a Police Officer. I was a Police Officer for 13 years, 3 years as a School Resource Officer. I know the joy of raising a family with my husband and the challenge of raising my youngest 2 who were 9 months and 3 years old when their dad passed away. There are many aspects of my life that will allow me to relate to and be understanding of a variety of families and their special needs in the ASD20 community including growing up in a military family. I look forward to the opportunity to serve the community, parents, students and staff of ASD20 and making a unique, and positive impact.

What would be your top 3 priorities if you joined the ASD20 Board of Education?
To continue an emphasis on safe learning environments for all students and staff that builds and enhances the school community and community at large.
To raise achievement expectations for students and staff with greater support from the community for significantly impactful outcomes for the individual, the families, our city, state and country.
To usher in AI with understanding, knowledge, wisdom and care.

Which Board policy do you believe should be changed/removed/updated and why?
I believe there needs to be a greater emphasis, encouragement and opportunity for students to follow a path other than university for example, learning a trade. I saw the benefit in my own [redacted] when [redacted] came to the realization that college was not for [redacted] and enrolled in the electrician program at [redacted]. At 18 [redacted] was hired by CDOT. There are a large number of unfilled openings in our school districts, city and state that do not require a college degree. I believe we need to do more as a society and educational institutions to change attitudes about different and nontraditional paths.

Please list any committees, associations or other roles you have had within school is ASD20, or schools outside of our District.
High School Physical Education teacher, High School Biology teacher, High School Health teacher, High School Dance teacher, K-12 Adapter Physical Education teacher, Department Chair, Paraprofessional, Coach, CODE 3 Academy director, Substitute teacher, School Resource Officer, Health, Physical Education and Recreation association member and Adapted Physical Education teacher association member

If you have students in the district, which school(s) do they attend?
None

Outside of education, what are you most passionate about/what motivates you?
Making a significant contribution by serving others is what motivates me every day. It brings me joy to contribute to the wellbeing and happiness of my family, my friends, my neighbors, my neighborhood and my community.

Denise Pietrzak

[redacted], Colorado Springs, CO 80919 | [redacted] | Email: [redacted]

Highlights of Qualifications:

- Skilled, experienced, and confident in working with all ages.
- Enthusiastic, communicating a love of learning and a dedication to educational excellence.
- Easy to work with, a cooperative and supportive colleague.
- Personable, articulate, professional in manner and appearance.

Experience

Adapted Physical Education Teacher 2021-2024

Special Education Department, Academy District 20

Assess students referred for Adapted Physical Education district wide, write goals and objects as well as consultation recommendations for students, attend I.E.P. meetings, provide accommodations and modifications for students to General Education Physical Education teachers, Special Education teachers and Paraprofessionals so students can participate in their least restrictive environment. Work with district staff and special education staff in all aspects of Adapted Physical Education.

Department Chair

2012-2018

Intenerate Department, Grossmont Union High School District

Charged with managing department budget, coordinating with other department chairs, communicating vital information within the department.

Itinerant Adapted Physical Education Teacher 2007-2018

Grossmont Union High School District

Itinerate Adapted Physical Education to high school age students who had a variety of special needs including physical, mental and behavioral. Assessed students, wrote I.E.P. goals and objectives, attended staff and I.E.P. meetings.

1995-2007

Police Officer

El Cajon Police Department

Assigned to various departments including Patrol, School Resource, Community Policing, Bike Team, Recruiting, Training, Backgrounds, Investigations, and Communications.

Physical Education, Health and Biology Teacher 1985-1995

Orange Glen High School, Escondido Unified High School District

Taught adapted P.E., Freshmen P.E. dance, aerobics, and weight training. Coached volleyball and cheerleading. Wrote and was awarded $175,000 grant for the CODE 3 Academy.

Itinerant Adapted Physical Education Teacher 1980-1983

San Diego Unified School District

Taught all categories of special needs: Preschool-high school.

Education

2002

National University – Master of Forensic Science

1980

San Diego State University - Bachelor of Arts in Physical Education

Credentials, Certifications and Licenses

California Teaching Credential Single Subject - Life

California Teaching Credential Single Subject - Life

Physical Education

California Supplementary Teaching Credential - Life

Biology

California Authorization - Clear

Adapted Physical Education

Colorado Department of Education - 2028

Teaching License - Physical Education

Teaching Authorization - Adapted Physical Education

Substitute License

References

[redacted] - Adapted Physical Education Teacher
Grossmont Union High School District
[redacted]

[redacted] - Teacher
Air Academy High School
[redacted]

[redacted] - Physical Therapist
Academy District 20
[redacted]