

Karen Chessell's

Why am I interested in being a School Board Trustee?

I have been active in education for over 24 years. I have been a classroom teacher, teaching students at the middle and high school levels, participating on many school improvement committees and currently I am the Family and Consumer Sciences consultant for the Nevada State Department of Education. In addition, I have three children, two who are currently students in Douglas County Schools.

In 2005 I heard there was an opening for the Trustee for Area 1 of the Douglas County School Board. No one eligible to fill the position had applied at the time I learned of the position. I asked many questions to determine if my skills would be useful to The Board. I interviewed for the position in January 2006 and was appointed to fill the vacancy. In August 2006 I ran unopposed and was elected to the position.

I have been an acting Douglas County School Board Trustee for 2 ½ years. I have added to the discussion on many issues and bring a perspective of a classroom teacher, of Career and Technical Education, Civil Rights compliance and the experiences my children have had to The Board. It takes awhile to learn the roles and responsibilities of a school board member. The citizens of Douglas County put their trust in me two years ago and I feel I have learned my role and continue to have a positive contribution to make to the students of Douglas County.

Students at each school in the district have unique needs. I am interested in understanding these needs and working with my colleagues on The Board to meet them in the most fiscally responsible way. I am interested in promoting opportunities for all students which lead to academic achievement and earning a high school diploma. I am also interested in promoting opportunities for each student toward success in life beyond high school, both personally and professionally. I want to make sure that conversations on student achievement include discussions on the needs of all students, not just the needs of Gifted and Talented students or the students who are not meeting the requirements of the No Child Left Behind law.

I would like to continue to serve as a Douglas County School Board Trustee and would appreciate your vote.

If you would like to discuss my interest in continuing as a Douglas County School Board member, please call me at 1-775-234-4124. (VOIP phone – you must dial the 1-775)