

Alpine Education Association recently sent out a list of recommendations for candidates running for different political offices. These recommendations are based on AEA and UEA interviews of candidates and their responses to questionnaires. Candidates who do not return the questionnaire or do not do an interview are not considered for recommendation. The recommendations for legislative political offices were based solely on the candidates' views of public education and not for any other issues.

AEA would like to better inform our members of why we recommended candidates for our local Alpine school board and the Utah state school board. Before making our recommendations for any school board candidates, our Political Action Committee (PAC) reached out to all candidates prior to the primary election. We did not receive a response from several candidates, so they were not interviewed and AEA does not recommend candidates we have not met.

Utah State School Board:

Cindy Davis (USBE District 9) - running opposed

Cindy is being recommended by AEA based on her interview and publicly declared views of public education. Cindy is very experienced in being part of public education at the Alpine district level and state level. She is a former educator in ASD and has a Master's degree in Education Leadership and Policy. She has served on school PTA, school community council, District community council and sits on university and state level advisory boards related to education.

Cindy is an advocate for ensuring public education funding not only keeps up with inflation and growth, but increases to allow innovation and higher quality education for students. Cindy is a huge advocate for teachers and wants to decrease teacher attrition rates to ensure the teaching profession stays strong. She believes "working together with policymakers, practitioners, and parents can form bridges that will lead to a healthy educational milieu in our state." Cindy has stated that the best way to improve education is through good policies that are not top-down but allow stakeholders at the local level to enact the best practices they are able to.

Cindy does NOT believe our education system is broken, but instead we have created the wrong tone about public education. She feels too many critics of public education have dominated the tone we have of public education and that tone needs to be changed to one that accurately reflects how much good is happening in public education.

For more information about Cindy Davis please visit-
www.cindydavisforschoolboard.com

Alpine School Board recommendations:

Audrey Barton (District 1- Westlake high school cluster) - running opposed

Audrey is active in helping public education be successful and get the resources needed to help students and teachers. She has a PTA member in 3 ASD elementary schools and currently sits on the District community council. She attends ASD board meetings and study sessions to be more informed on the issues ASD is facing. Audrey is motivated and willing to hear all sides of an issue and use that information to do what is best for students and teachers.

Audrey has stated that a big concern for her is that teachers' voices are not always heard. She supports parents and policymakers having a voice in education, but wants to make sure teachers voices are not lost among other stakeholders. She wants to make sure the public knows how much the teachers of ASD do to help their students by changing the negative message about teachers told too often by critics of public education.

For information about Audrey Barton go to - www.facebook.com/audreyforalpine/

Amber Bonner (District 2- Lone Peak high school cluster) running opposed

Amber has been a public and vocal supporter of public education for many years in Utah. She has been involved in PTAs, district community council, school community councils, state level committees, and volunteers in her own children's schools frequently. She spends time talking to legislators and local ASD school board members about how to make sure students and teachers able to make public education as successful as possible.

Amber has stated that communication is key to helping ASD become even stronger than it currently is. She wants to make sure all stakeholder voices are heard and their concerns are addressed in ways that help students. She is very well versed in a myriad of issues facing ASD and wants to make sure proven solutions are used to address these issues. Amber wants to see flexibility for students and teachers in how ASD addresses issues which need improvement.

For more information about Amber Bonner please go to- www.amber4asd.org

Sarah Beeson & Afa Palu (District 3- American Fork high school cluster) duel recommendation:

AEA is confident both candidates for this race are huge advocates for public education, students, and teachers. ASD will be in good hands with both candidates becoming a school board member.

For more information about Afa Palu go to- www.facebook.com/Afa-Palu-Candidate-for-Alpine-School-Board-of-Education-159356504747782

For more information about Sarah Beeson go to- sarahbeesonsb.com

Ada Wilson (District 5- Mountain View high school cluster) - running unopposed

Ada is originally from South Carolina and grew up in a family of educators. She has lived in Utah county almost her whole adult life and all 8 of her children have gone to Alpine School District schools. She has been on school community councils and served in the PTA at different schools. She first got involved in publicly supporting and promoting public education when the battle over school vouchers took place. Ada decided she needed to fight and protect public schools from attacks and found her voice during the voucher battle; which she still uses to support ASD schools.

For more information about Ada Wilson go to - www.ada4schoolboard.com