

**FORT COLLINS AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE
2015 PSD SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

Due back to ahutchison@fcchamber.org by noon on October 7, 2015

*Please note that questionnaire answers
will be shared with the business community.*

Office Sought: PSD Board of Ed	District (If Applicable): F
Name: Rob Petterson	
Home Address: 5238 Keystone Creek Ct., Fort Collins, CO 80528	
Daytime Phone: 970-218-7722	Evening Phone:
Fax:	Email: robforpsd@gmail.com
Employment: Hewlett Packard software engineering	
Length of Residence: In City: 13.75 years In District: 13.75 years	

(1) Education: see attached resume

(2) Past and Present Community Service Including Offices Held:
See attached resume plus served on NRAB in early 2000s

(3) Past and Present Employment/Business Experience:
see attached resume

(4) Current Employment and Responsibilities:

Program management in firmware organization at Hewlett Packard in preparation for retirement at the end of the year. I bring multiple organizations together to define, create, test, and deliver products, which deliver value to our customers and our company.

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(5) Past and Present Political Offices Held:

None

(6) Specific Qualifications For This Office:

See attached resume for my experience. In addition, I have excellent skills in teamwork, leadership, conflict resolution, listening to all sides and finding win-win solutions, speaking truth to power, disagreeing respectfully, and being very comfortable examining data and clarifying it for those around me. These skills have been evident and rewarded in my 33 year work career and in my 13+ years of volunteering in the district. Also, I bring knowledge of and comfort with technology – which is an important tool in our school district and in preparing students for their futures.

(7) Why Are You Running For This Office?

I want to ensure that every student has the opportunity to achieve his/her full potential and graduates to a successful life and career. I have the experience and skills to help make this a reality through service on the Board of Education.

(8) Is there any significant information that could come out about you during a campaign that could potentially embarrass you publicly? (ex: bankruptcy, arrest, conviction, etc.)

No

(9) Is your spouse/significant other/family supportive of your decision to run for public office?

Yes

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- (10) What are the three most important issues facing the school district during the next two years? Discuss in more detail what you think is the most important issue.

There are more than three important issues facing the district.

- Being responsive to growth: PSD will need buildings and facilities to accommodate the projected growth in enrollment. Ensuring that a bond passes to fund these needs will be among the highest priorities.
- Closing the achievement gap: This continues to be a problem in PSD. It is visible in the statistics/district data and I have observed it firsthand through my volunteer work on school accountability committees and the District Advisory Board.
- Ensuring that all students have similar opportunities to reach their potential: I have seen and heard of differences in opportunities that are offered to students as I have talked with parents at and visited various schools. Every school in the district offers varying degrees of electives, core subject instruction, the arts, extra-curricular activities, health services and other key components to education. Some variation is natural and unavoidable and is a result of the interests of the particular community or the availability of resources or parent volunteers. However, when it results in lesser opportunities for some students, then that is a problem that needs to be addressed by the district.
- Ensuring the maximum engagement of students in the learning process: This affects everything from drop-out rates to what and how much kids learn to students finding their passion and therefore what they want to do later in life to the “creation” of life-long learners which is so essential to our future. The teaching and learning framework (which I helped create) speaks directly to

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this and its implementation across the schools is a multi-year process that needs to continue.

- Ensuring differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students: This is related to all of the prior points and the lack of sufficient differentiation is a common area of concern I have experienced through my own children and heard about from many other parents and students. It is affected by class and school size, professional development, curricular materials, funding, and philosophical approach of the teacher and the educational community as a whole. Nonetheless, differentiation to meet the needs of all students of all levels and learning styles is important – whether it is done in the classroom, across the school, among multiple schools, or using online or other resources.
- Effectively advocating with state and federal elected officials, at a minimum, in the area of PK-12 education funding and standardized assessments: Education remains underfunded relative to the voters' wishes as expressed through Amendment 23. We need to continue to work with legislators to eliminate that negative factor. I believe the more articulate we can be about what we will do with that money and how it will positively affect student learning, the better chance we will have in recouping that money. On the subject of assessments, we need to reduce the number and amount of time associated with standardized testing. I applaud the work the legislature did last session and the reductions PARCC made in the early summer, but I do not think it went far enough. Testing in high school should be course specific, not grade specific (except for the ACT which has relevance to most high school students). Assuming tests are tied clearly to standards and there is prompt and meaningful feedback, standardized testing can provide value

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to students, parents, and teachers as well as accountability for schools and districts. However, such testing should be minimized as much as possible so that the focus can be on learning. Third and fourth graders probably should be taking standardized tests with paper and pencil given the complexity of the online framework. The online framework needs to be studied over the first several years of its usage to understand if it is impeding the students.

(11) What have you done to prepare for election to this office and how you will you conduct yourself if elected to this office?

See my resume for what I have done to prepare by serving the students, schools, and district as a whole.

I will conduct myself according to the highest standards of ethics and proactively and transparently executing the responsibilities of the office:

A school board member first and foremost works as part of the whole board to set direction (ends/goals) and to hold the superintendent accountable for achieving those ends (and not violating the executive limitations) through formal monitoring, dialogue, and regular reports and updates as needed. The board collectively employs the superintendent and evaluates her performance, making changes when needed. In doing this, and as long as the vision is shared, there should be a partnership between the board and the superintendent for the benefit of the students and the district as a whole.

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While a board member cannot speak for the board as a whole unless directed to do so by the board, he/she has other key responsibilities as an individual:

- be a sounding board with the school community and the community at large on what is going well and what issues need addressing
- be an advocate for the school district and the positions taken by the board as a whole
- establish good relationships with legislators and other government officials who impact the district and lobby with them on positions taken by the board
- keep up to date on educational developments in the district, state, and beyond so that he/she can be an educated partner with the administration and the district
- visit schools in coordination with the superintendent and attend PSD events to be actively engaged in the PSD community and keep abreast of what is going on in the district.

Rob Petterson

10/7/2015

Signature

Date