

**1. What meaningful experiences in the arts (dance, music, theater, and visual arts) did you have growing up? Why do you remember these?**

I had no education in any of these areas and other than a brief stint with a musical instrument had no exposure to the Arts. I went to a fairly poor school in elementary in the 1950s that offered no classes or training in the arts and by the time I went to middle school in the 60s I felt it was too late, that I was out of place. I focused on Math and Science.

**2. What role do you think the arts can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the opportunity gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college eligibility and the creativity needed in the 21st century workforce?**

I believe any educational opportunities that can generate excitement and interest in learning has a place in our educational system. Interest spawns success and success in one area will lead to success in other areas.

**3. The arts are defined as a core subject in the state definition of basic education, but the reality is that many schools are not providing adequate arts instruction\*. What do you see as the School Board's role in ensuring the equitable provision of sequential, standards-based arts instruction to all students?**

The school boards role is to comply with the state's educational mandates as best as they can given the perpetual underfunding situation that has been created by the state's mismanagement of our tax dollars. As long as the state's priorities continue to include mass transit and ballooning state worker roles and overly generous retirement funding (compared to private industry), school funding will be weak. A school board can only enforce and encourage programs when there are funds to both pay for the teachers and the teaching materials. I believe that Math, Reading, and Science will always take priority over the Arts as long as the state testing of competencies are on those subjects.

**4. If elected or re-elected, how will you help the School Board lead engagement of the greater community (including administrators, classroom teachers, arts specialists, students, families, artists, and community arts organizations) to help inform the education conversation and shape school board policy for arts education?**

I do not know given the problem I defined in #3.

*\* Statewide data shows that 33% of elementary students are getting less than an hour of arts instruction per week and 47% of schools offer instruction in only one of the four primary arts disciplines. Source: Washington State Arts Commission, Arts Education Research Initiative 2009.*