

**Mannion Middle School
School Organizational Team Election
September 6, 2018**

OFFICIAL BALLOT

1. Please review the candidate statements before marking.
 2. Checkmark the name(s) of the candidate of your choice.
You may vote for up to SIX candidates, but your vote will be VOID if you vote for more than six candidates.
 3. You may only vote for those candidates who are listed on this official ballot.

*Please indicate your vote by placing a check mark next to those candidates that you wish to vote for. **You may vote for up to 6 candidates.** Candidate responses to two questions are on the following pages.

Indicate your VOTE by Check Mark. You may vote for up to 6 candidates

- _____ Rachele Abbott
- _____ Melissa Anderson
- _____ Michael Leaverton
- _____ Amy Moser
- _____ Cory Plough
- _____ Debora Ponce
- _____ Michelle Reilly
- _____ Christine Schwab
- _____ Cathy Trahan
- _____ Doreen Wetzel

Rachelle Abbott

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

I am invested in our community, and I want to help ensure that our children have the best education possible.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

As a former middle school English teacher and a mother of 7 children, I have the perspective of both a parent and a teacher. In addition, I served on the SOT at Mannion during the 2017-18 school year, and I am familiar with the procedures and demands of the position.

Melissa Anderson

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

I would like to be apart of the SOT to help with any of the school needs. Help organizing and setting up events, thinking and planning ways to help the students feel/be safer, and to be a role model. I think this is such a sensitive age and it is important to show the kids that joining a school organization or club will help them make new friends and have positive experiences.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

I was secretary or the Twitchell PTO, help set up school festivals and other events, I'm a member of the Opportunity Committee at my job where we brainstorm and implement ways for employees to have the opportunity to advance or seek different job titles. I have a flexible work schedule and can be available when needed.

Michael Leaverton

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

I want to see students succeed within their given scope of achievement.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

Employed with CCSD for 20+ years as support staff and am very familiar with the district and state requirements for student education (14 years in student records, 6 years in AARSI [Accountability, Assessment, Research, and School Improvement]). I have knowledge of the requirements for testing (SBAC, NAA, and Science) as well as FERPA, discipline, attendance, and graduation requirements (have been NDE [Nevada Department of Education] liaison for the CCSD graduation rate for the past six years (meaning, I validate and verify the graduation rate that has gone from 61.59% in 2012 to 83.22% in 2017)).

I have worked in the Data Visualization department of AARSI for 3 year and have been instrumental in bringing the graduation rate up due to the ability of schools to see, at a glance, their students' progress. This includes being an adjunct for the Early Warning metrics that NDE has adopted according to Stanford's recommends.

You will find more motivated people for this SOT. You won't find more qualified.

Also, I'm a bit arrogant. But personable and, really, I want to be a voice for student success. Really. That's my goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amy Moser

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

I believe that EVERY child deserves a world-class education. As a former CCSD teacher and as a parent, I have seen children grow and thrive in ways that brought me tears of joy. I have also seen students completely failed by CCSD in ways that made me literally hang my head and weep. Is your child thriving academically? Does your child feel welcome, included, and a sense of belonging at school? When my children left elementary school, I can tell you that the answer to these questions were a resounding NO. So I decided to get off the bench and onto the field. I ran for SOT last year and won. During my time as a SOT Parent rep in the 2017-2018 school year, I never missed a single meeting. I wanted our SOT to have stronger ties to the community, so I sought out a community partner at Nevada State College. I raised concerns about student achievement data for students of color, and my voice was heard. I promise to continue to show up, be brave, amplify your voices, and advocate for your child's best interests. Every child. Every day. No matter what.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

I truly believe that where you sit is where you stand. I'm a former CCSD teacher and a single parent—I know how hard it is to juggle work, family, and social obligations. I know how frustrating it is when you can't be in two places at once! My 7th Grade daughter is in Accelerated Courses and my 6th Grade daughter receives special education services. I know the ins and outs of the IEP system and the anxiety involved in having to advocate for your child's needs year after year. I'm the parent of two biracial daughters. I have seen the pain in my child's faces when they have experienced racism in our schools and our community. I am part of a collective of educators that actively examines bias in our schools with the goal of seeing our students of color access the education they deserve. I've lived in seven countries on four continents. I understand what our kids need to compete globally because I've lived it. As a five star school, I know Mannion is giving our kids a great education, and I hope to build on those successes to reach every child, every day, no matter what!

Cory Plough

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

My name is Cory Plough, and I am interested in applying to be on the School Organizational Team. My son has been with CCSD since kindergarten and is now in his third CCSD school. I have always had the desire to volunteer at one of his programs, so am happy to finally have the availability to do so. I have heard wonderful things about Mannion Middle School and would be part of a team that can help the school continue to improve and grow as our children face new challenges in these formative years. I look forward for the opportunity to serve at my Mannion and to collaborate with other well-minded parents who are just interested in the best for their school and community.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

I am blessed to be in my 15th year of working in the field of education. I have worked in public and private schools and had many different roles which include teaching, administration, curriculum development and educational technology. My specialization is in online and blended education, and I believe that perspective will help me offer ideas and support as Mannion continues to meet the needs of 21st-century students. I was also lucky enough to serve on the Board of Trustees at a school for several years and participated in many meetings discussing the vision and policies of their program. I believe my background in education, a strong desire for community service, ability to collaborate effectively on leadership teams and passion for student growth makes me a qualified candidate for this position. Thank you for your consideration.

Deborá Ponce

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

My motivation are two things that are very important the first one is my son, joining the School Organizational Team would allow me to be a part of his middle school experience/Memories. He would be able to see that as a parent we are more involved than just homework, transportation, and feeding. The second thing is the fire burning inside me knowing that I have to be a better parent than what was ever provided to me growing up I did not have parents that were involved, I unfortunately/or fortunately was raised by the system, never went to the same school. Group homes, shelters, and foster care was my life. I have set out to be nothing like my parents, trying to do everything I can so that my son can never ever say anything I have ever said or felt. I don't need no sympathy by the grace of god I am here and have a wonderful son that inspires me to do whatever I set my mind to do.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

I feel like I will be an asset to the School Organizational team because I have learned how to work as a team, have learned when to be a leader and when to be a follower, I have developed soft skills, I have learned to listen, the importance of communication. I have been coaching basketball for six years. I am the elementary director for Henderson National Basketball league, I coach the Lady Spikers, at National Youth Sports, and lastly I have a hope for the homeless group, we go and feed the homeless. You may be asking how or what has made me want to do everything I do, it's very simple, coaching comes from wanting to help kids it isn't just about making them good at a sport its about educating them and helping them understand everything ties in life, in order to be a good athlete you have to be able to follow directions, listen, respect, trust, loyalty. I am a strong believer on the saying "it takes a village to raise a child" but I also believe it takes a village to keep a community going in a positive direction. I am creating my foot print in our community, but most importantly I am being an example to my son.

Michelle Reilly

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

As a current member of the School Organizational Team, SOT, at Mannion Middle School, I would like to submit my name to be considered for the 2018/2019 school year. Not only am I a current member of the SOT, I am a former Mannion teacher and coach, and both of my children have attended Mannion since sixth grade (one who is in 7th grade; the other who has moved on to Foothill). I feel that I am able to contribute a fair voice to the SOT and represent my community in an equitable manner.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

As an active/current member of the SOT at Mannion, CCSD employee (6 years at Mannion), and CCSD Coach I feel I possess many skills that can contribute to the SOT. I have been in education for 14 years, eight of which has been within CCSD. I hold two Masters in Education, one in Curriculum and Instruction and the other in Educational Leadership. I made the transition into education from the business world with one goal in mind, to create change. Change begins with one person who is passionate about a situation. I am passionate about being an educator. I am equally passionate, if not more, about my children's education and the other children in our community.

Christine Schwab

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

My motivation is to assist the Principal and the SOT in making decisions that are in the best interest of the child's educational and social growth, regardless of how difficult those decisions might be. I want to provide a parent perspective to the SOT that is consistent with creating a positive and productive learning environment for our children.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

I served on the Walker Elementary SOT since its inception and as the Chair during the first term. I have extensive knowledge and experience in business, accounting, management and budgeting and have an ability to see both sides of the equation - aiding in consensus that works for all parties. Being an accountant will bring a different perspective to the Board since I am outside the "education" walls. I have lived in Henderson since 1979 and love this community and want to give back and help Mannion be the best it can be.

Cathy Trahan

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

I have a working knowledge of standards- based instruction and standards -based assessment due to actual classroom experience and extensive course work in these areas.

I am also well-versed in best practices when it comes to grading. Are we, as parents, really okay with students getting a grade for word searches and crossword puzzles? If students don't use all of their bathroom passes, their lowest grade is eliminated; grades just can't be altered because a student does not use the restroom! Standards-based learning is tied to mastery by the end of the term. Students should be allowed to make corrections on assessments or take a make-up exam without that newer score being averaged in with the initial lower grade.

Students' grades seldom recover from a "0", but yet that is what is entered in the grade book for missing work, instead of using "Late" which would not impact the overall grade unless it never is submitted.

I would like to serve as a member of Mannion Middle School's SOT because as educators we know better, and should be doing better! What can we do at Mannion to better prepare students for their future?

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

I have worked for CCSD for 35 years; 23 years as a third grade teacher and the remaining years as a Learning Strategist. I have extensively studied standards-based learning and best practices in grading policies. Teaching to the standards for the grade level, providing the rigor that is needed for all students, and implementation of truly standards-based assessment is my passion, and it would be my absolute pleasure to work with administration, staff, and other parents to implement changes that are needed. Sure, your child might be making straight A's, but does that grade truly indicate learning at a rigorous level and can they explain the "why" of what they have learned and not just the "how". I am willing to say that most can explain "how", but it's the "why" that makes our children life-long learners, which is what they will need when they enter college.

Doreen Wetzel

What is your motivation to serve on the School Organizational Team?

I have worked for twenty years in the role of child protection social worker, adult probation and parole officer and most recently as a juvenile probation officer for the State of Wyoming. I love working with and for families and children. My family came from a small town and it has been quite interesting for me to learn the differences/similarities of small versus big towns. The one thing that has been quite apparent and remains imperative is the role we play as adults and communities in the lives of our children. I would like to play a role in bridging the gap of communication and/or strengthen communication amongst all the key players involved in raising our children to become responsible and productive members of our community. I believe that there are no "bad" children but only children that make bad choices at times. So many young people do not recognize their potential and sometimes school is the one safe and constant place that some are able to realize this when they don't feel hope in other places. Education can be fun and challenging and I would love to brainstorm as part of a team with others to see that school becomes a positive experience for our children.

What qualifications, skill sets, or unique experiences do you have that you feel will be an asset to the School Organizational Team?

I have a Bachelor's of Science in Early Childhood Education and have worked as a social worker to benefit both children and families. I have twenty years of experience working with children and families as a mentor, probation officer and child advocate. I have worked with Judges, attorneys. Mental health professionals, treatment providers and families with one common goal - to see children and people succeed. I have two successful daughters, ages 36 and 34 and thirteen years ago had the privilege of adopting my youngest daughter. I am retired and would love to be able to work with the staff at Mannion Middle School and the parents as well as the community to make our children's have a fantastic education that they can be proud of!