

Watchmen Voter Guide for Boundary County School District - Zone 5

** Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire **

| | Teresa L. Rae | David Wilson |
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| <p>1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?</p> | <p>My name is Teresa Rae, I am running for School Board Trustee Zone 5, Boundary County School District (BCSD) 101, and I am running because I am passionate about public education. I think every child, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, gender, learning/physical ability, etc. deserves a quality education that affords them any and every opportunity to pursue whatever path they wish to as an adult.</p> | <p>My name is David Wilson. I am running for Naples District 5, for Boundary County School District #101 School Board Trustee. I have been living with my family on our off-grid homestead, while watching the “world burn”. A soft yet direct voice told me it was time to leave my comfort zone and become active within my community once again. As a father of five, I understand how important our children are for our future. I do not know where I will end up and who I will be able to help. A fight is coming and we need to stand. I am now standing.</p> |
| <p>2. How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.</p> | <p>2.1. Funding – any given year in our nation, Idaho ranks either last or in the bottom 3 for state funding which ultimately impacts our children and their education. We are fortunate that we have talented, committed faculty that live in our community and believe in the future of our children, but it has become increasingly difficult to attract and retain that talent.</p> <p>2.2. Continued curriculum refinement – Since Jan Bayer (Superintendent) has been on board (3 years this year), she has been focused on teaching to Essential Learning Objectives (ELOs), ensuring our curriculum supports state standards and that teachers are focused on and teaching to those standards. This effort has paid dividends especially when schools shut down in March 2020 due to COVID; our educators anticipated high levels of learning loss and gaps in learning leading into the 2020-2021 school year, and by focusing on ELOs, our test scores K-8 reflected favorably on the efforts that our staff made this past school year. Our focus this year, 2021-2022, is on the Math across the district. Our state test scores do not reflect what we know our students have learned; this year students will be given interim assessments that are aligned to state testing so that students are prepared to take these tests while at the same time allowing teachers to address gaps in learning by re-teaching areas that students need. Last year, our focus area was English at the High School; they were able to implement a new curriculum that is better aligned to state standards, that provides the rigor that we expect at the high school level, and that allows students and teachers the flexibility to incorporate reading material and genres that address state standards while still remaining appealing to today’s students. (The remainder of Ms. Rae’s answer can be seen in her questionnaire)</p> | <p>-From what I have learned over the years living in Boundary County, an important issue would be new ideas for teaching curriculum for Math and English. Test results have shown that our students are scoring between 21% and 77% proficiency in the above areas. This is pathetic and we need to consider alternatives to the current methods.</p> <p>-Another way to improve our educational system is to leave the classroom. This could be as simple as walking around the school grounds. I know there is great knowledge to be found from simply observing and being apart of our natural world. Too much time is spent in man made and controlled environments. Young minds need new and varied information and input, or “multiple sense stimulation”, which is constantly available outdoors.</p> <p>-Finally, another way to improve our school system is to mimic what other successful schools are doing in the USA and in other countries. Great examples are countries like Finland and Norway.</p> |

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| 3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees? | I'm an options kind of person; I want our students to be exposed to as many opportunities as possible in and outside of the classroom. I believe the key to every student's success and happiness as an adult is finding those areas that they are passionate about, developing that passion, and giving them the tools to transition into adulthood able to pursue those passion. I am currently a part of our Career and Technical Education committee that is in the process of revamping our CTE offerings. As a board member, I also have input to and then responsibility for helping to resource the types of educational opportunities we want to see for our students and that our students want to see. Lastly, by listening to parents, staff, and community members and providing input at board meetings on what we want our educational experience to look like throughout our district, I know I have direct impact in implementing my educational philosophy in a positive way. | My educational philosophy, as a dad, a man, a graduate from college, is that we are always able to better ourselves and learn from all situations. Education is a mindset. Education is not a book, nor is it four walls in a building. With modern technology that has paired entertainment with learning, we can help others find what inspires them and allow them to grow in that field. The Board of Trustee's mission statement is, "... to empower all students to become lifelong learners". The only way to accomplish this is to assist them in loving to learn. Life is a playground, "I'll race ya to the swings!" This is who I am and this would be reflected in how I vote and recommendations I will make. |
| 4. Do you support "Critical Race Theory," why or why not? | I need to level with anyone reading this...I think if you asked anyone in this district back in April/May when Critical Race Theory hit prime time, very few if any of our 200+ employees and board members could tell you what it was – because we had never heard of it. All of us furiously googled it and tried to figure out exactly what CRT was. The short answer is NO, I do not support Critical Race Theory. What I do support is teaching history – the good, the bad, and the ugly. I do support presenting the facts and developing critical thinking skills in our students that allow them to come to their own conclusions based on their upbringing, their own philosophical beliefs, and their own experiences. I do not support any indoctrination or forced beliefs on any of our students. I fully support Idaho State's Content Standards that do not teach the philosophies of Critical Race Theory. | I do NOT support Critical Race Theory as it is applied currently in the books for young children. Social and cultural anthropology are great topics and have a wealth of information about how empires are formed, collapse, and how throughout history and on every continent there have been oppressors and oppressed. These are topics for more mature audiences and require a neutral setting for discussion. What I have read from CRT books made for our young children is simply a tool for programming. In these books, a person has a value based on skin color, white people are bad, and colored people are perpetual victims. This a lie and unacceptable in any educational setting. |
| 5. Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not? | I would support diversity, equity, and inclusion curriculum in our schools, but I look at this from an anti-bullying perspective. I want ALL students in our district to treat each other with dignity and respect, even when one student doesn't share in the same beliefs/thoughts/opinions as another student. | -I support adding diversity to the curriculum. By this, I mean adding as many learning tools, skills and props as needed to reach as many learners as possible. -Equity cannot be used in a leaning environment. It is crippling for those that excel at certain subjects or sports to be held back for the sake of someone of lesser ability in that field. The use of "participation trophies" is an example of how good intentions can have dire consequences. Why try harder than others? Why be better prepared if the outcome will be the same? This will harm our children when they grow up. If we don't allow our brightest, strongest, and most skilled to truly excel and compete with the highest level of competitiveness, what kind of future will they be able to create for themselves, or for us? (The remainder of Mr. Wilson's answer can be seen in his questionnaire) |

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| 6. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools? | I do not have an issue with the growth of Charter Schools as long as they have to follow the same accountability standards as public schools AND accept ALL students, even those with learning disabilities. I think the rub between public schools and charter schools is that public schools have to accommodate ALL students, following federal and state guidelines, where the perception is that Charter schools get to pick and choose their students. This creates an undo economic hardship and burden on some public schools because it increases their ratio of students with learning disabilities, learning deficits, and IEP requirements while at the same time not receiving additional funding. Like I stated previously, I am a champion for public education for ALL students. | I encourage the growth of charter schools, home schooling and any other way a family can better their children. A collaboration between all the above to recognize what is working within our community could greatly benefit our children's future. |
| 7. Do you support the ability for employee unions to automatically deduct money from their members' paychecks to finance political activities, why or why not? | This is not happening in BCSD101, I just want everyone to know that. NO, I don't support this, in fact I don't think political affiliation should play any part in public schools, period. | I do NOT support the ability for unions to deduct money from paychecks, UNLESS the person has given permission. I think that unions should be using that money to protect the workers and support the employees during changing times. |
| 8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not? | I DO NOT support bathroom/locker room usage based on preferred gender identification; in other words, I believe a child should use the bathroom/locker room based on their birth gender. I also know that the federal government has enacted laws that are counter to my belief, with numerous states currently fighting these laws/directives (to include Idaho), with recent court action in Virginia that was upheld in the Supreme Court that awarded \$1.5 million to a transgender plaintiff concerning this very topic. I DO NOT support this because I do not want my daughter to have to change in a locker room at the tender age of 12 with children of the opposite biological sex; I feel as though my parental rights would be violated by exposing her to what I believe could be inappropriate situations that I don't condone, and I believe her rights would be violated because she shouldn't have to change in front of a biological male. We are watching this closely as a school board, but ultimately as a board member, I have an obligation to follow all local, state, and federal laws. I also want everyone to know that ALL students in our district deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. More to follow on this, I am sure. | -I oppose, very strongly, anyone wanting to use a bathroom or locker room of the opposite sex they were born as. I do however, support a separate bathroom, or port-a-potty for all those that are not sure which sex they belong to. This gives everyone the privacy they deserve. -I also strongly oppose trans athletes competing against those of the opposite sex as they were born. Those wanting to become trans, and wanting to compete can create their own trans athletic programs. This would be safer and more fair for all athletes. |

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| 9. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children? | <p>9.1. Open, frequent, and relevant communication.</p> <p>9.2. Utilizing the full range of resources available to the student to include school provided counseling as well as outsourced counseling available through our community mental health professionals.</p> <p>9.3. Individualized education plans tailored to fit the needs of the student to include in-depth 4 year plans at the high school.</p> | <p>I have worked in the therapeutic industry for 20 years now. I have worked with staff, clients, therapists, and parents. The common themes that have had the best results, are honesty and transparency. We live in a society that is trying to instill unnecessary power in children, and convince our children that they don't need to get their parent's permission for life changing choices. This includes; sex, abortion, transgendering, hormone therapy, vaccines, parent ideology and social constructs. There is an agenda to split the family. Keeping the parents out of the discussion is destructive to the family core and I oppose it.</p> |
| 10. What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion without parental notification? | <p>Personally, I am not in favor of a child being able to receive an abortion without parental notification, but to be quite honest, this is outside the scope of our school district and has nothing to do with me or my opinion as a school board member.</p> | <p>I am against students being able to receive an abortion without parent notification. I think that choices like this require the family acting as a unit. I am pro life, and only think abortion should be an option when there is a life threatening situation to the mother.</p> |
| 11. Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not? | <p>I did not know what this is, so I googled it...it's a movement that "aims to reframe the country's history by placing the consequences of slavery and the contributions of Black Americans at the very center of US national narrative". No, I do not support this, and in this form, this content is not supported by Idaho State Content Standards. However, what is in Idaho State Content Standards woven throughout various grade levels is learning about key Black Americans throughout history that played an integral role in abolishing slavery, fighting for desegregation, and addressing civil rights, and I support the current state standards instead.</p> | <p>I do not support the 1619 project. The project was launched by The New York Times Magazine to put ideology before historical fact, and place the black slaves as the center of the creation of our nation. This is another way the powers that be are trying to divide and conquer our society using racism. All races have built up this nation with blood, sweat, and tears.</p> |
| 12. In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification? | <p>I can think of two situations off the top of my head where students should be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification; the first would be in an emergency situation where harm to self is imminent (with the caveat that parents/guardians are contacted immediately as the situation allows). The second situation would be when a parent/guardian is implicated in wrong-doing against a student/child.</p> | <p>I do not think there are any instances, besides abuse, that parents should be left in the dark with the conversations a student and therapist are having. In the case of abuse, sexual or physical, the authorities should be notified immediately.</p> |
| 13. Who has the responsibility for the education of children? | <p>In a perfect world, I believe the responsibility for education of children falls in order on these entities – parents, educators, and society. Unfortunately, in our current world and in our community, I believe this holds true for about 70% of our student population. For about 30% of our kids, however, parental support/involvement/responsibility is lacking, which increases the burden on educators and society as a whole.</p> | <p>The ultimate responsibility of educating the youth falls upon the parents. Sadly, I see many parents refuse to educate or to be involved in the learning process because they think they aren't educated enough, don't have enough time, or don't have the patience to teach their children. I think these excuses are a "cop-out". I see many parents using the system more like a daycare than higher learning, with little regard to the actual teachings in the schools.</p> |

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| 14. What is the goal of education? | The goal of education is to educate and empower all students to become life-long learners and contributing members of society (this also happens to be BCSD101's mission statement). | I think the goal of education is to better ourselves, and our society as time goes on. Generally, we want our kids to be better off than us, yet this requires more information and TRUTH than what we had available to us when we were growing up. |
| 15. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not? | I do not support the legalization of marijuana. For our youth, I believe it is a gateway drug, pure and simple, however this topic is also outside the scope of my responsibilities as a School Board member. | I support all plants that God created to be legal. I do not think it is any governments business to limit our ability to use natural remedies. I think there should be an honest discussion about health and medicine with our doctors that is removed from governmental oversight. I find it ironic that people will blindly take pills with no ingredient list, yet won't take the time to learn about the medicinal plants that are all around us. A few examples from our area in the Northwest are; Yarrow, Pineapple Weed (Chamomile), Wild Lettuce, and Elderberry. Enjoy the benefits that these local weeds have to offer! |
| 16. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position? | I graduated from West Point in 1992 with a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and later earned a Master's Degree in Logistics and Business Management from FIT. I spent 20 years on active duty in the United States Army, retiring in 2012 to Boundary County, ID. I am married to a 3rd generation Boundary County resident, Brian Rae, who works with/for his brother at General Feed and Grain in Bonners Ferry. I volunteer coach for every type of youth sport imaginable, and am the President of our local chapter of Fuller Center for Housing (formerly Habitat for Humanity) as well as a Fry Healthcare Foundation board member and Festival of Hearts Director. My educational background, my staff and leadership experiences in the Army, having children of my own attend BCSD schools, volunteering in my community, and coaching/teaching/mentoring our youth are all what makes me qualified for this position. What makes me the best candidate for this position is that I care about ALL children, not just my own; I want ALL children to grow up to be successful, HAPPY, thriving adults, and I believe having access to a quality education sets them up for success in achieving this. | <p>I am a Christian.</p> <p>A father of 5 amazing young men and women, and husband for 27 years to an incredible and supportive wife. We have home schooled our kids for 24 years, and counting!</p> <p>I graduated from Utah State University in Environmental Studies with minors in Recreation Resource Management and Anthropology, which has enabled me to share my knowledge and love of the outdoors with others throughout my life. I have taught science at a local home school co op. Being competitive and athletic, I played high school football and later I played college football, volleyball, and lacrosse. I helped teach lacrosse locally and was a referee for our home games for several years.</p> <p>I have worked in the Therapeutic industry with adolescence for over 20 years, taking time off to get my degree in 2004. I worked as senior field staff in wilderness programs for adolescents teaching wilderness survival techniques and healthy coping mechanisms. Locally I was the Intervention Specialist for therapeutic boarding schools, and have continued working within the industry transporting and working directly with at risk youth, their parents and therapists.</p> <p>There are several local agencies and programs I have been able to participate in. I was a volunteer Firefighter for South Boundary when we first moved to the area. Shortly after, I worked with Search and Rescue and ended up an instructor for basic certification. I worked for the Forest Service for as Timeberstand Improvement Technician thinning trees, planting seedlings, performing regenerative surveys and was a Wildland</p> |

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| | | <p>Fire Fighter when called out. My wife and I participated in the local group E-prep (Emergency Preparedness) and helped teach several courses on preparedness, soap making, and off grid technologies. For several years I was a part of Boundary County Oath Keepers and became the Engineering Coordinator which allowed me to teach basic engineering and survival courses in classroom settings and outdoor camps. I was elected Naples Precinct Committeeman 2017-2019 and represented our County at the Republican Convention 2018.</p> <p>My family and I have lived off grid for 13 years using solar and battery technology, greenhouses, raising/butchering animals, and growing gardens. This has been some of the hardest and most rewarding times of our lives. The many chores, projects, construction, and animal husbandry greatly assisted us with opportunities to educate our children. We hunt and fish and I have used these skills to further teach life skills and a deep love for the creation we all live on and share.</p> <p>I have been instilled with a desire to become self sufficient and resilient, and I would like to incorporate this notion into our school system and community.</p> <p>I come to the table not saying I am any better than those in position, I come with a different background. I am willing to try new ideas, and I am not entrenched in the current situation.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and vote!</p> |
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