

**Watchmen Voter Guide for Coeur d'Alene School District Zone #2**  
*\* Click on each candidate's name to see their completed questionnaire \**

	James "Jimmy" McAndrew	<a href="#">Yasmin Harris</a>	<a href="#">Mike Stavish</a>
<b>1.</b> What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	<b>No Response Received</b>	My name is Yasmin Harris and I am running for CDA School Board Trustee in Zone 2. My interest began when my kids started attending school in the CDA school district. I began attending and watching the school board meetings and staying current with issues being discussed for our schools and our children. Stepping into this role is an opportunity for me to be a voice for the community, and an opportunity to help reflect the community's expectations and goals. I have a vested interest in considering the needs of the students, our future generation, and translating them into goals and policies that will support: student achievement, budget clarity and anti-bullies, among many more.	I'm Mike Stavish and I'm running for the CDA School Board Trustee Zone 2. I am a small business owner, a husband, and a father to three children currently attending the public schools in Coeur d' Alene. Our community is losing trust in our schools and the school administration because we are concerned with spending and curriculum accountability. We want assurances from trustworthy people that we are using our hard earned dollars wisely, and that our children are getting a classic and healthy education. I am your person to trust. As a father, I am personally vested in what happens in our schools, and in what kind of people our young children become. I offer this trust through transparency. I will look at our budget closely and share it with you clearly and concisely. I will look at our curricula and ensure that it is based on a classic and healthy education. I want to ensure that we are producing educated children with positive life values. Vote for trust. Vote for Transparency. Vote for Mike Stavish.
<b>2.</b> How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	<b>No Response Received</b>	We need to be more academically focused on the fundamentals of our children's education, instead of entertaining distractions or ideologies that don't belong in the academic setting. We have lost focus on what is most important and why children are going to school in the first place, and ultimately, we need to take it back to basics. There is also a lack of trust and clear communication between our district leaders and the community. My goal is to support our students, be a voice for the parents and ensure we have clarity and open dialogue from the district regarding spending, curriculum and parental involvement. This is one of the biggest points of contention surrounding the recent levies: lack of transparency and clear, honest communication. Our parents and our community deserve to know that their voice is heard and valued.	The lack of community trust is the primary issue right now. That must be restored first. A large portion of that effort needs to be focused on messaging and communication channels between the board and the voters. After this is resolved, checking a growing budget and targeting small 1 or 2 percent cuts will be the most beneficial to the voter. For the schools themselves I will prioritize, higher competitive salaries, reduce administrative bloat, less dependence on federal funds, and community volunteer efforts to make up for the failed maintenance levy.

	James "Jimmy" McAndrew	<a href="#">Yasmin Harris</a>	<a href="#">Mike Stavish</a>
3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?	No Response Received	I believe schools first and foremost should be a place where education and student achievement is the first priority. This takes hard work and high standards set forth by district teachers. I believe in leading by example and allowing children the opportunity to rise to the occasion. When we as adults set a high standard, I believe our children will live up to it. Or at least, knowing that they are trying their absolute best. I would be able to implement this by a critical curriculum review and promoting policies that support this philosophy.	We really can't let schooling get in the way of education. Mark Twain is credited for that one, but it truly highlights our propensity to believe that education is something that can only occur in a very specific circumstance. In schooling today, we can get much education in the way of fact memorization; learning skills like reading, writing, and arithmetic; and introduction to complex topics. These are good things, but aside from being able to read and write, often don't leave our newly made adults with much to help them. I would strongly favor more practical skills and knowledge beginning in middle school. Things like home budgeting and banking, auto mechanics, and cooking/health are primary skills that many young adults simply don't have. Also, they are citizens who might vote one day, so they disparately need a civics education as well, which must be supported by the history of this great nation and the political philosophies of our founders. I would enact policies and curricula that give the children hands on experience in these real skills.
4. What role should "Critical Race Theory" have in the education of children?	No Response Received	Absolutely none.	None. It is a dubious proposition in the first place, and its history ties it closely with Marxist radicals that realized violence wasn't getting anywhere, so they started trying to gain control of the institutions. On its face, it supposes that race is <i>the</i> factor that sets the classes apart. Clearly that's not true, since there are rich and poor of all kinds. Deeper down, it argues that we should redefine society and restructure the entire economy to even this class divide. That's the Marxism, not even well-hidden, but it's even more offensive than classist Marxism, because it is also now racist. BUT even if CRT were a legitimate idea, there is no market place of ideas for children. We teach them what we want them to know, based on what we have learned through experience that it is good. Once the child is an adult, only then do they take what we've taught and apply it for themselves in their generation, taking and leaving what does and does not work for the times.

	James "Jimmy" McAndrew	<a href="#">Yasmin Harris</a>	<a href="#">Mike Stavish</a>
5. Would you support adding diversity, equity, and inclusion to the school curriculum? Why or why not?	No Response Received	No because that goes back to the lenses of CRT which is a Marxist ideology.	Why or why not? No. Like all things far left, it sounds good on the face. It's in a nice pretty wrapper. In practice, it's a turd sandwich. Diversity of identities, like race, sex, and nationality, doesn't need to be avoided, but it should not be sought out intentionally, for two reasons. First, that would necessarily diminish at least one identity while others increase. An irony, since the claim is that it will increase people groups. Second, when identities clash it usually causes strife; it does not build strength in a community, as the leftists insist. Diversity is a hardship that has to be mediated to prevent violence and other rights violations. Equity is an insistence that outcomes are the only metric of importance. It's simply Marxist tripe. Disparities can be unjust, caused by unfair things and people, but they can also be completely indifferent. When we see unjust, we are rightly incensed, but one's conditions alone are not evidence of injustice in need of redress. Inclusion is just a tack on word. It's a synonym for Diversity. With regards to public participation, that is a civil right, and I will strongly defend it. I will strongly defend a citizen's inclusion in the public space and their right to participate.
6. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	No Response Received	I am a huge proponent of school choice. Charter schools operate differently than public schools and I think they are a wonderful option for families who are looking for a unique or specific approach in their children's education. Again, it is the parents' choice.	I favor alternative routes in general. There is almost never "just one way" to do things. What we need to care about is whether our charter school students are graduating with a classic and healthy education that produces positive life values. From my personal look into things, the charter students in our area perform very well on the standard testing, so they are at least doing well there.

	James "Jimmy" McAndrew	<a href="#">Yasmin Harris</a>	<a href="#">Mike Stavish</a>
<p>7. Should children be allowed to access obscene materials through school libraries? Please base your answer on the federal definition of obscenity.</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>Definitely NOT. There should be no basis in education that such materials would ever need to be accessed while children are being educated. It should be illegal and a school/ district should be fined and held accountable if such materials are ever found in school libraries or classrooms.</p>	<p>Clearly not. Everyone agrees, but then I suppose not everyone agrees on "obscenity". Federally, something may be deemed "obscene" if, applying contemporary adult community standards, the material appeals to prurient interests, patently offensively depicts or describes sex (of any kind), and lacks serious other value, like scientific or political. Not until puberty age should our schools be even considering any educational materials that involve sex. This is not an argument about obscenity, but about child welfare. It is grossly immoral to expose children to sexual content, imagery, and themes when they are so young, as is done with certain gay and gender books targeted at 7 year olds. Each child, in a healthy home, will eventually ask their parents the question "What is sex?" and I encourage parents to have the conversation honestly and frankly. In our public education, I support a "sex ed" somewhere around 7th grade, and repeated more in depth around 10 grade. This would not be obscene. A book targeted at a 7 year old to put thoughts of sex in his mind is really, really disgusting.</p>
<p>8. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>I very much oppose it. Bathrooms and locker rooms need to be safe places. This is a place where we are most vulnerable. Children should not be exposed to this type of ideology. It does NOT belong in schools!</p>	<p>No. I don't support any placation to transgenderism. It is a false ideology, and convinces people to mutilate their sex parts. The idea that they've won so much ground on this that they all they have left are girls sports and locker rooms astounds me. It's going to be a long road back.</p>
<p>9. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?</p>	<p><b>No Response Received</b></p>	<p>Parents rights in education, or the lack thereof, is one of my number one concerns. Parents should always be notified of any issue or concern, positive or negative, in regards to their child(ren). Open dialogue and communication is key. It goes both ways.</p>	<p>When I was in school in the 90s and early 00s, if you were talking to a counselor it's because you were a serious trouble maker and they already tried calling your parents and sending you home 6 or 7 times. I was such a child, so I've seen this process first hand. I understand today that they make themselves available "just to talk", and ostensibly they won't over step their bounds, but if the parents are not informed of any such interaction, it necessarily oversteps. We have heard a number of stories where counselors are getting kids involved in transgenderism and other deviant and death-causing ideas and behaviors. A similar thing happened locally at NEXA in 2020, and it was kept from the parents. That is criminal. I mean it literally. Someone should go to jail. Good teachers go out of their way to tell parents "I had a little chat with Johnny today," but counselors get a pass? I think not.</p>

	James "Jimmy" McAndrew	<a href="#">Yasmin Harris</a>	<a href="#">Mike Stavish</a>
<b>10.</b> What is your opinion on students being able to receive an abortion or change their gender without parental notification?	<b>No Response Received</b>	It should be illegal to allow any child to undergo an abortion, gender reconstruction surgery or gender-affirming hormone therapy. If anything like this was made available to my child, I would have the heads of all those involved.	This is bad, for the same reasons I expect personal interactions with a counselor to be reported to parents too. I don't think I would have much say over this as a school board trustee. If a school employee knows of a student keeping vital information like that from their parents, they must make a written report, and inform the parents. The only sensible exception is if the child is in a legitimately abusive home, but the school employee should be working with CPS at that point.
<b>11.</b> Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	<b>No Response Received</b>	I do not. It seems very politically driven and focuses on the mistruths of our American history. It's incredibly misleading.	No. It's a dopey CRT hack project propped up by dishonest media, and is being syndicated in a pseudo-curriculum. How it is ending up in any schools is beyond me, but indeed I've read of a few. Numerous reputable historians have pointed out its grave flaws, so it is not any such thing we will have in our schools.
<b>12.</b> In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Almost never. The only circumstance that I would imagine that a parental consent would not be applicable is if it was a life or death matter. Otherwise, it is not the school's place to provide mental health resources to a child without the parents' consent. However, I do believe that the school can be a great resource to parents who are seeking such assistance for their child(ren).	There are no circumstances where this is appropriate. Children in legitimately abusive homes should already been under investigation by CPS, and those children might actually need to depend on other safe adults to get them though the likelihood that they will be taken from their parents. These instances are rare. What we don't want happening is some counselor or other adult putting an ideologically wedge between children and their parents. If a child approaches a counselor with something, or otherwise has a "counselor's interaction," a report must be made and give to the parents.
<b>13.</b> Who has the responsibility for the education of children?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Parents are responsible for their children's education. It all starts at home, leading by example and preparing children to receive instruction. The emotional and spiritual wellbeing of children belongs to their families.	Parents are responsible, ultimately, but so many pass the buck to the schools. Only now do some seem to see what 50 years of that has gotten us. Responsibility is what they are practicing now, and I thank them for it. If they are reading this, they are wondering who they should vote for, to best represent their values while in loco parentis. I am very willing to put in policies that are derived from the values of our parents. This is why, as part of rebuilding trust, I would create stronger and clearer channels of communication between school board and parents.
<b>14.</b> What should the goal of education be?	<b>No Response Received</b>	Education should be the catalyst that propels a child to become a well-rounded and productive member of society.	An education should produce a well-adjusted adult, confident in basic schooling knowledge, along with peers and guidance from mentors (teachers, parents, etc), who is eager to finally set aside his childhood and contribute to society, producing goodness and providing value to his family and community.

	James "Jimmy" McAndrew	<a href="#">Yasmin Harris</a>	<a href="#">Mike Stavish</a>
15. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	No Response Received	This is a complicated and layered issue. While I do understand there are some beneficial medicinal qualities, I also believe it is a gateway drug that should never be made accessible to minors. I do not support the legalization of marijuana as it opens the doors to addictions and drug use in children, too easily.	Controlling substances is a complicated question, requiring the need to consider personal freedom, public health, enforcement, and social tolerance. Personally, I morally oppose most substance usage, including alcohol. I'm not a teetotaler, but if I hope to practice virtues I should probably severely limit my vices. I think it is a shame that the pop-culture has convinced a lot of people that weed is not harmful. It seems to me that it has all the bad parts of tobacco and alcohol put into one, and chronic usage makes you stupid. There's a reason they call it dope. Whether legal or not, I strongly oppose marijuana usage for any minors, and it will should be disallowed on all school properties.
16. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	No Response Received	I am an active and concerned parent, with a stake in the community and the future of my children and their peers. I trust I have both God and my conservative values working on my side to maintain objectivity as I seek truth, transparency, and accountability within the school district. I have a background in finance, bookkeeping and property management for large publicly traded companies as well as small entities and non-profit organizations. I believe this will also be a huge asset in going into this office, for my ability to carefully analyze budgets, spending and organization on a large scale. I currently work at Pathway Church as the Director of Ministry Development. I have a heart to serve, I love my community, and I believe this also equips me for this volunteer role of board trustee, in which I will stand strong for my values and principles, even in the face of challenge and adversity. I am unwavering in my faith, and in my desire to represent our children, our families and our community well.	My fiscal experience comes from being a business owner. Many times I have examined budgets and trimmed and shaped them to better serve my business needs. I don't have a background in education, but as a father of three children currently in the public school system, I have a personal vestment that strongly motivates me to do the best possible.