

Coeur d'Alene School District # 271 Trustee Zone 1

	Michael Burns	Rick Rasmussen
1. What is your name, what office are you running for and why are you running for this position?	Michael Burns, Couer d'Alene School District 271 Trustee Zone 1. I am running for this position because I believe I can have a positive impact on quality of education in the school district.	Rick Rasmussen School District 271 Zone 1 Board Trustee I come from a family of educators (Dad, Mom and Wife all worked more than 30+ years as educators in School District 271 and my brother currently works at CHS) and I attended SD 271 from K-12 as did my wife, and my two daughters and I want to give back for all my family has received.
2. How could your school district be improved? Please provide your top 2-3 ideas.	The school district must prioritize education and foundational skills, specifically reading, writing, and arithmetic. Furthermore, there should be increased access to vocational school programs and STEM initiatives. A thorough examination of the budget is essential to ascertain whether the funds designated for specific programs are being used as intended—to support the students and the educators who instruct them.	I feel the top opportunities are: 1) Increased workforce development opportunities 2) Better partnership/marketing with our community 3) More trust and transparency through additional communication to parents
3. What is your educational philosophy and how do you plan to implement this philosophy as a member of the board of trustees?	Education should cultivate wisdom, virtue, and character formation. Additionally, students should be taught a love of learning through hands-on and discussion-based methods, and not simply rote memorization. Above all, education should form students who want to make the world a better place and not individuals who will simply follow orders or never question authority. Enacting transparent policies that foster true educational methods and reward merit-based performance is one way to implement this philosophy. Additionally, ensuring fiscal accountability will provide both students and teachers with the tools necessary for a proper education.	My educational philosophy is the education is a team effort and school is just one part of it. There should be education support at home and at our churches. I plan to speak up and vote on policies that help support the team approach.
4. What role should “Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)” have in the education of children?	DEI has no place in public education. It only serves to turn One Nation Under God into a nation divided. Unfortunately, many schoolchildren are being taught that the color of their skin is what matters most and that merit and hard work are very secondary considerations. We need to return to teaching the basics in education.	I personally think DEI should be taught at home and with the clergy.
5. What is your view on the growth of Charter Schools?	Charter Schools provide an important service. They achieve superior educational outcomes for students with reduced funding. This is partly due to their concentration on academic excellence and the preparation of students for college or university.	I think options for education is great because everyone learns differently but all schools should be held to the same standards.

	Michael Burns	Rick Rasmussen
6. Should children be allowed to access obscene materials through school libraries? Please base your answer on the federal definition of obscenity as it applies to minors.	No. Pornography has no place in school libraries. Its only end is to corrupt the youth of our nation.	I absolutely don't think obscene materials should be allowed in school libraries. This material could be harmful to minors.
7. Do you support or oppose bathroom and locker room usage based on preferred gender identification? Why or why not?	I oppose the use of bathrooms and locker rooms based on gender identity. Too often, it is the other students who become victims, compelled to accept something they find objectionable and contrary to common decency.	I think bathrooms and locker rooms usage should be divided by the sex identified at birth. Single occupant rooms could be an option.
8. How should counselors work with parents to resolve issues with their children?	Counselors should utilize a collaborative approach, with parental involvement, to resolve issues with their children. The parents should be notified and participate in any corrective actions or decisions involving their children.	It should be a partnership with families, their children and counselors just like it should be with teacher and administrators. Like I said earlier, education is a team activity.
9. What is your opinion on students being able to change their gender without parental notification?	This should never occur. Honest studies reveal that minors who undergo sex change operations continue to be plagued by mental health issues and high rates of suicide. Additionally, parents have the right to know about any important decisions involving their underage children.	I think parents should be notified like they are included in medical decision making.
10. Do you support the 1619 project? Why or why not?	I am opposed to the 1619 Project. It is based on a largely biased and fabricated history of this nation. Proponents of this project believe that America's DNA is evil, and therefore, must die and be replaced by something else. Despite its imperfect history, the United States is the greatest nation in the history of the world.	I have not heard of this before but I would have to research it.
11. In what circumstances should students be able to receive mental health assistance without parental notification?	Never. All decisions regarding mental health need to be made with parental consent and involvement. Additionally, informed consent needs to be provided to parents and their children who are prescribed psychiatric medications, as these medications have potentially very serious and lethal side effects.	I feel parents should be notified to receive mental health assistance like they are included in students receiving medical care.
12. Who has responsibility for the education of children?	Parents are the primary teachers for their children. They place their confidence and trust in schools and school administration to educate their children in accordance with community standards, morals, and customs.	Again, I think it should be parents at the top but family, clergy and teachers all need to support the children.

	Michael Burns	Rick Rasmussen
13. What should the goal of education be?	The goal of a proper education is to form the whole person. True education teaches students how to think critically and does not crush curiosity, nor make education a drudgery. Education should make students into moral citizens who love their country, have a sense of civic duty, and possess a love for the truth. A classical education should be provided to all students in order to prepare them for the world they will inherit.	The goal of educations should be to empower the children with knowledge and skills that would prepare them for the workforce and their future.
14. Do you support or oppose the legalization of marijuana? Why or why not?	I am opposed to the legalization of marijuana. Prolonged use of marijuana has a negative impact on cognitive function, lowers IQ, and not suprisingly, results in poor academic performance.	I oppose the legalization of marijuana as it is illegal in Idaho and also that it impairs/alters the minds.
15. What is your background and why do you feel it qualifies you for this position?	I am a husband and father residing in the local area. I have been employed in the Healthcare sector for 34 years. Furthermore, I have managed several small businesses. As a result, I possess budgeting experience, along with the motivation and commitment to enhance the academic performance of the schools within the district. I thank you for your support and consideration.	I have lived in Idaho for all my 60 years and have a background in leadership and accounting/finance which I feel can help me make difficult decisions if needed, can evaluate talent and my accounting/finance background will help me reviewing the budgets and capital expenditures.