



**Wyoming Public Schools
Board of Education Candidate Profile
Audrey Zapata**

Questions:

- 1. Please provide a brief bio about yourself. Include your personal background, particular skills or experiences that qualify you to serve on the Board of Education.**

I have been in finance for 23 years now and currently hold a management position at my company. I have my B.S. in Business Administration and have served in many different capacities of banking throughout my career. I hold a seat on the Planning Commission for the City of Wyoming and attend the Wyoming Business Leaders Group monthly. I am a proud parent of three children at WPS and volunteer of my time regularly throughout the district.

- 2. What motivates you to want to become a Wyoming Public Schools Board of Education member?**

My first motivation to be on the WPS Board of Education was that I am a parent. I want to be involved in what my kids are learning about in school and to have an influence in the culture around them.

Secondly, I genuinely love the community I live in. I care about the families in this community and want to make a difference in their lives by serving in this community. It is important to me that the kids that walk through our doors feel like they belong here, that they are important and have a purpose in this life.

- 3. What attributes and behaviors are essential for effective school board members?**

I believe sincerity and someone of strong character are highly important in a school board member. We encourage our kids here at WPS to be the Alpha Wolf, to be 11 out of 10 amongst your peers. That should also be said of the school board. We should demonstrate those behaviors of being gracious, kind and compassionate. Those are attributes you should not have to strive for, but just be who you are, both inside and outside of the board. If you do not exude those attributes, I believe you cannot be an effective board member, nor do you deserve to have a seat at the table.

- 4. If elected, what will be your priorities?**

My priority as a school board member is simply, to ensure that all students have a safe learning environment and have a place that they belong. To encourage families to get involved in what their students are doing in and out of the classrooms. To support the staff and administration in the district, encourage them, and make it known how important they are. They are influencing the lives of the next world changers, they are so important, and we see them, honor them and lift them up.

The statements and opinions expressed in this profile are solely those of the candidate's and do not represent Wyoming Public Schools. The primary purpose of this profile is to educate and inform and does not constitute any endorsement or support of a particular candidate or initiative. Each candidate was given identical questions and the same opportunity to provide responses.



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5. How are you currently involved in the Wyoming Public School community?

I serve quite a bit of time, alongside my team at work, at West Elementary. We help in reading in the classrooms; we help fill in financially where there are gaps. Sometimes that is classroom supplies sometimes that can be snow pants, gloves, hats etc.

I also serve in the Wyoming Athletic Department. I help volunteer and/or find volunteers for concessions for football and basketball games.

Through serving on the Planning Commission, my goal is to provide affordable housing of all types for the families of the WPS community.

Lastly, I work with the counselors at Wyoming High School any time we offer scholarships to seniors through my employer to ensure our students are getting a chance as scholarship opportunities.

6. What is your vision for education in the district and how can we better serve our scholars and families?

My vision for education in our district is that when kids come to school, regardless of how well they do at school, that they feel like they belong there, they are loved and they are empowered to take the reins and have a say in their education and in their future.

My vision for the families is that they feel like they belong here as well. When they have needs, questions, concerns, they feel confident that their voice will be heard and action taken.

My vision for the community is that from an outside perspective, people can see the culture that the WPS system has created and want to get involved in any way possible. Additionally, I wish for the neighboring schools and communities to view us as the standard. To see our ability to adapt and work with families and students with whatever they may need and our ability to keep striving for excellence, inclusion, and equity amongst our widely diverse demographic; at the same time, have them not only want to achieve what we have, but to be motivated to make our area a better place for everyone.

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