

Barbara Corry
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From the time my oldest child began kindergarten I have been involved in education. I am passionate about providing a quality education to all children. I have dedicated my life to the belief that every child deserves educational experiences that help, enrich and transform their lives. As a School Board member I have labored unceasingly to learn about and create the situations where our students feel safe, cared about and challenged. I value those who dedicate their lives to educating others. I have worked locally and at the state level to educate and encourage those outside the education community to help provide the necessary funding and support required for our children to excel .

Personal Information: Born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT. Graduated West High School
Married Robert Corry, Physician, Cross Country and Track Coach Cedar High School, 25 years
6 children, 21 grandchildren

Education: BA English and Psychology Southern Utah University

Experience/Accomplishments: Housewife
Iron County School Board 1991-2011, Vice President 2009-2011, 1997-2007

President Utah School Board Association 2010-2011, USBA Board of Directors 2004-2008, USBA
Executive Committee 2009-2012, USBA Legislative Committee 2009-2012

Utah High School Activities Association Board of Directors 1998-2003

Utah PTA- served in leadership positions in elementary, middle and high schools while children were in school. President Iron County PTA Council 1989-1990, PTA State Board of Directors/Region Director 1993-2001 oversaw all PTA 's in Iron, Washington and Beaver Counties.

State Trust Lands-2006-2008-visited schools, reviewed Trust Land plans and provided community council and Trust Land plan training, including acceptable use of trust land funding.

Reading Grandmother

Other Accomplishments/ Interests: Founder/Director Cedar READ 1990-1995, 1st adult literacy and ESL program in Iron County

Owner BC Hats 1983 – present , design and manufacture period headwear and costumes for the Utah Shakespeare Festival , others

Utah Midsummer Renaissance Festival Craft Chair 1983-1987 Utah Summer Games Volunteer -1986-2007
Family Fun Festival Inaugural 5K Director 2011 InJublio –a women's choir,

Cedar City Music Arts Committee, Cedar City Arts Committee, 5 Countries Association of Governments, State Speech Arts Standing Committee, various local fundraisers, and committees,

Active in my church, holding leadership positions in Boy Scouts, young women programs, women's and children's organizations.

**UTAH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CANDIDATE QUESTIONS**

Barbara Corry

2012

1. Describe the qualifications and experiences you would bring to the State Board of Education and how they would be an asset to the work of the Board.

I served on the Iron County School Board for 20 years. I served with the Utah School Board Association for 8 years. I was involved with the creation of USBA's MasterBoard program. I know school boards. I understand how and why they function. I have been a participating member as our district researched and implemented programs to improve teaching, accountability and student learning.

I know and understand education trends and research. I bring a wealth of common sense knowledge about how schools work. I am a unifier. I bring people together and find common ground. I am also firmly committed to my principles and I weight my actions and decisions according to those principles. "Is this in the best interest of the Student?" is a standard I hold myself to.

2. Name three key things you would like to accomplish as a member of the State Board of Education.

I feel the State Board of Education has become very politicized. It appears that some legislators feel that the Board is there to carry out their demands, whatever they may be. As an elected officer, also, and member of an elected board I feel it is the board's responsibility to identify issues, study them to find good solutions and work in implement the best practices for our school districts. I would work to put the Board's focus back on providing good, sound educational leadership.

Professional training and exposure to Best Practices is paramount to good education. Good teachers are the backbone of the education system. I respect, admire and appreciate teachers. It would be one of my goals to see that emphasis be placed on programs that encourage teachers, provide respect for the work they do and make them feel valued as the lynchpins of education that they are.

School Districts are burdened with many directives, mandates and reports. Secretaries have had to be hired to deal with the paperwork. Directors/Administrators whose primary function is to ensure the district is in compliance have had to be hired. It is such a waste of time, money and effort. It distracts the School Board and the District from their focus of educating children. The State Board cannot be everything to everybody. My goal would be an evaluation method that ensures that the amount of paperwork/ busywork dictated by the USOE be balanced by the value of the project. Guidelines need to justify their existence, results need to be reported, analyzed and used, rationales need to be examined.

3. What do you think are the two biggest issues or challenges facing public education in the state of Utah? Why?

There are many issues/ challenges facing public education today. Many are interrelated and coexistent. To identify any one brings so many more to the surface. However, I will try.

In its simplest form, funding is the major issue in education. I understand all the arguments about Utah. I understand the legislature's dilemma. There aren't any easy solutions. But the bottom line is that there isn't enough money in the education system to provide the type of education that everyone; parents, children, educators, legislators, business people, higher ed, etc., want. In working with the 41 school districts in Utah I recognize that each district structures its needs and allocates its resources differently. Each school district has needs unique to themselves. But no one has enough to do all they need or would like to.

To me, the 2nd issue is one of philosophy. To be an educator was once a revered and esteemed position. Educators were valued, education was valued. Today it appears that we, the public, demand a good education for our children, we demand that they are cared for, given a value system, taught how to behave, not restricted, given everything they desire, not be held to any standard, and not be punished. Then we, the public, get angry because those who are willing to take such abuse and try to make sense out of the conflicting commands given them, cannot accomplish our demands to our satisfaction. People, including legislators, need to look at what is happening to education because of the abuse and disrespect for our educational system being taught and disseminated throughout the entire country. No matter what electronic wonders are used, no matter what delivery is employed, we need good educators for students to achieve, to find themselves, to become productive members of society. Utah needs to value those who teach and serve in the education community. We need to respect those whose avocation is to teach, love and mold our children. Presently, I feel we have better teachers than we pay for. It is an economic reality that we need an educated workforce. We have enough children to provide that workforce but unless we have educators who feel valued, feel empowered and can financially afford to teach, our children will not receive the education they require to achieve in this world.

4. Describe the efforts you would make to communicate with your constituents and bring all stakeholders (state board, local boards, legislature, educators, parents) together to enhance public education.

I have never done my school board work in a vacuum. I will continue to visit school districts, attend board meetings, talk with legislators before, during and after the legislative sessions. I will utilize my ties to the Utah School Board Association, local and State PTA, local and State Education Associations, Higher Ed and ATC, to listen and to share. My husband has coached high school track and cross country for over 25 years. I have been very involved with those students and their parents. I have ties, because of his coaching activities, throughout the state. I have been in schools in every school district and know individuals in those schools. I know personally the political leaders in Iron County and they know me. I have a good working relationship with the School Board and School District in Washington

County. I promote good education and support for public education every chance I get. I will continue to do so.

5. What would you do to improve the academic preparation of students as well as their transition to higher education or other post-high-school training?

I worked on Iron School District's K-16 committee as well as Power Standards and Core Curriculum committees as the schools and the district worked to bring their curriculums in line with the Core and what needed to be taught at each grade level. I served on school committees as they wrestled with the NCLB mandates and we cut out the fluff and required that every activity have an educational purpose and employ reading and writing skills.

If the State Board has a clear vision of what needs to be taught, the depth it needs to be studied and the level of understanding and achievement that a student needs to reach, school districts will do everything in their power to see that that vision and those standards are achieved.

At first there was little agreement between post high school programs as to what a high school student should be able to demonstrate in order to be successful in post high school programs. As the discussion has continued, there is common ground appearing and, I think, school districts are working hard to ensure their students are prepared to go on and be successful in post high school programs.

I would endeavor to find more common ground with Higher Ed, establish standards to which they can all agree on and justify, and then relay them to the school districts.