

Hello. My name is Marie Rhodes and I'm privileged to have this opportunity to introduce my candidacy for Board Member of District #6, Concho Elementary.

After 15 years of vacationing here, my husband and I couldn't imagine spending our lives elsewhere. We purchased our home four years ago and completed our move here just over a year ago. More than just loving the land, we love the people here. It's that same love driving this desire to serve my neighbors and my friends.

The other applicants' resumes do appear impressive, but I don't believe my lack of attendance at universities or attainment of degrees should disqualify me. They're having been many who've achieved much short of collegiate education. I think we can all agree that success in one area doesn't guarantee equal success in another.

So, let me tell share with you those achievements and successes I have which I believe will equate with successfully serving as your School Board Member.

The proud mother of two grown children and six grandchildren, two of which are currently being educated in Concho schools, I was always very involved in my children's education, volunteering and serving the needs of my children's schools in any capacity I was able.

Now, with my children grown, I'm asking your permission to further demonstrate my desire to see our children grow academically, socially, and productively by electing me to the Concho School Board. It's true, you won't get any alphabet soup behind my name, but you will get a strong-willed, committed woman whose opinions aren't limited by academic training but are gleaned through common sense and practical, real-life lessons.

We're all witnessing, at every level in government, how important and revitalizing it can be to upset the status quo. A friend reminds me of how one man and a helper attempted to wire a home-built radio. One read the directions while the other, a trained electrician, did the wiring. Once completed, the men turned on the radio. Where music was expected, only horrible screeching was heard. A wiring mistake was obvious. Retracing the process several times ended with the same results, hideous noise instead of music. Then the men swapped tasks, the electrician read as the other clumsily traced wires. Late in the process they realized a mistake in where a wire was soldered; a mistake the electrician couldn't see because he was blind in his certainty and experience. The same is true in other areas of life too. Give some thought to new views and new ideas; it's often the root of progress. A vote for me is a vote for fresh blood and new, creative thinking.

With no affiliations, allegiances, or pre-existing agenda, I'm concerned only in providing our children, grandchildren, and those who will follow, the best educational opportunities we can provide them. Help me contribute to giving our heritage a future we can all be proud of.

Please consider me when you cast your vote for Concho School Board, District #6.

Thank you

