

As a parent I am not encouraged by the administration's school improvement efforts because, to date, they seem to be predicated on hiring an outside consultant to do the work for the superintendent. An informed school board working with a confident superintendent would never have allowed the district to decrease the number of days students are in school or reduce schools to 4 days a week. Yet, now we have a Navajo public school basically following a high-paid consultant's playbook that has nothing in common with how a Navajo school can achieve at its highest. If other Navajo schools like Chilchinbeto, Lukachukai, Greyhills High Academy, Nas Tsis An and including most Hopi schools can make AYP consistently, and can do so without hiring an outside consultant, there is no reason why WRUSD should do the same. My belief is that true reform and improvement begins and ends at the local schools with our own people making the hard decisions with support from the administration and board. This is an area that is never well served when everything is driven from the top, and in our case from an outside high-paid consultant. I am a candidate for the Board because I am hopeful we can get reform and improvement right by permitting local schools sufficient support and guidance to tailor individual reform efforts to their respective situations; by establishing fair and accurate curriculum and instructional standards for all students; and by assisting local school efforts to identify, recruit, retain and continually develop quality teachers for our classrooms. Most importantly, I want to be a partner in the districts success. But I am not willing to be a silent partner who puts a stamp of approval on everything the administration puts on the table. For too long this district has worked hard to treat parents and the larger community as a silent partner. We parents are required to sit on the sideline while a shameful achievement gap persist in the district.

Wallace Hanley



Apache County

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Superintendent of Schools