

August 6, 2018

Robert "Barry" Williams
Apache County Superintendent of Schools


RE: Statement of Candidacy for Window Rock Unified School District #8

I am Wilson C. Stewart Jr., from Fort Defiance, AZ. My maternal clan is Tótsohníí (Big Water) Paternal clan is Naaneesht'ézhi Táchii'nii (The Charcoal Streaked Division of the Red Running Into the Water Clan) Maternal Grandparents are Táchii'nii (Red Running Into the Water People Clan) Paternal Grandparents are Biihbitoodnii (Deer Spring Clan). My parents are Nellie Stewart and the late Wilson C. Stewart Sr. of Fort Defiance, AZ.

Currently, I am employed with the Navajo Nation Department of Dine' Education within the Office of Dine' Youth. I work with youth, parents and communities of the Navajo Nation. My family and I have been working with youth and families on horse care and management. We have a drill team that has been in existence for the past 30 years. This organization was started by my brother Delbert L. Benally Sr. and I to educate and teach families about livestock care and management. This group now works as a stepping stone for youth and their parents to become involved in the sport of rodeo and horse care management.

My interest in applying and seeking a position for the Governing Board of Window Rock Unified School District is I have been concerned for several years on the quality of education that our children receive from the district. In working with parents/guardians and children from the district I have noticed a decline in homework for students attending the after-school program daily. An additional area of concern is the lack of attention and concerns the administrators, teachers present to the parents/guardians when it comes to the welfare of the children. Another area is the lack of care for the facilities, equipment and educational materials the district is using to educate our children on a daily and yearly basis. I have received visits from educators on concerns they have regarding educational materials, desks, classrooms and buildings they utilize daily. Those concerned educators not only spoke to me of these concerns but have shown me pictures which they have in their possession. Additionally is the concern for the meals that are provided to the students for breakfast and lunch. I attended a board meeting a year ago it was presented that the students would be receiving nutritional meals for the school year on a daily basis. However the students that I see daily basis have informed me on more than one occasion that they receive pastries and juice for breakfast. For lunch the meals are not heated properly. What has happened to cooking and preparing adequate meals for the students and staff?

These are concerns parents/guardians, children and educators have mentioned over the years or what I have seen and witnessed for myself. As an alumnus of Window Rock Unified School District I am willing to work towards improving the educational system, policies and procedures for educators and administrators.


Wilson C. Stewart Jr.
PO Box 422
Fort Defiance, AZ 86504

