

# Freedom Watch

## **School Board Candidate Survey Issue**

Cheyenne Mountain School District 12 Candidates VOTE FOR TWO  
October 2005

**Candidates in Ballot Order (Candidates without hyperlink did not respond to the survey):**

[Steven K. Parker](#)

Philip DeVries

[Steven K. Mulliken](#)

### **Cheyenne Mountain School District 12 Questions:**

1. Why are you running for school board?
2. What are the most pressing issues the school board should address in the next two years?
3. Explain your philosophy regarding charter schools and voucher programs. How would you decide whether to approve or reject an application for a new charter in your district?
4. How do you feel about sex education programs that are abstinence based and include age-appropriate information about contraception and sexually transmitted diseases? Are you supportive of inviting community service providers into classrooms?
5. Would you support the inclusion of intelligent design in the science curriculum?
6. What role should the school board play in curriculum development and textbook selection?
7. In your opinion, what do your district's CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program) test scores reveal about student achievement in your district?
8. Is there an achievement gap between minority and white students in your district? If so, what is the role of the school board in addressing this?
9. What are appropriate expressions of religion in schools by teachers and students?
10. What ideas do you have for ensuring a safe school environment for the diversity of students and teachers in your district?
11. Are teacher salaries in your district  
A. too high

- B. appropriate
- C. too low?

12. How will you ensure that your district has adequate state and local property tax funding?

13. What role does school nutrition have in supporting student achievement? Do you believe there should be any changes made to current food service?

**Name:** Steven K. Parker

**Education:** Cheyenne Mountain High School; BA, Sociology, UCCS; MPA, UCCS

**Occupation:** Account Consultant, Qwest Communications

**How long have you been a resident of your district?** 46 years

**How can citizens contact you if they want more information?**

phone 633-4111; email [parkerforcmsd@earthlink.net](mailto:parkerforcmsd@earthlink.net)

1.

I want my children to receive the same outstanding education from District 12 that I had. I want to be a part of the team that continually provides opportunities for all students to succeed. My employment, appointed and elected government positions, non-profit leadership roles, and education have provided experience and skills that enable me to be an effective board member.

2.

Determine ways to perpetuate & increase school excellence. Attract & retain outstanding staff. Strengthen parental involvement. Work to improve means of school funding. Continue the effectiveness and respectful teamwork of the Board, staff, parents, and students. Ensure that each student reaches their full potential and is prepared for the future.

3.

Charter schools are a means to expand educational opportunities in our public schools. The board must follow Colorado law pertaining to charter schools. School goals, standards, education design, governance, and operations are key items to consider for the charter. All these factors must be considered in order to approve or deny an application.

4.

I encourage access to programs that emphasize abstinence and provide age appropriate information to students. The family has a major responsibility in this area, and should play a significant role in the education process as well. It is important that students are aware of community service providers and how to contact them.

5.

I am still evaluating this topic and will continue to consider all aspects of this area in order to formulate a position.

6.

The school board should be actively involved in the development of curriculum and selection of textbooks, and meet the requirements of the State laws regarding these items. Decisions should be made based on best education practices, including the use of informed input.

7.

The CSAP process is required by State law and is a method of establishing what our students are expected to do, determine a students proficiency in the various areas, and developing an appropriate action plan. Our school system is dedicated to providing superior instruction, which reflected in student scores and related achievement on CSAP and other assessments.

8.

Our district serves a diverse population of students. We have always focused on providing all students with the best education possible, which in turn allows them every opportunity to achieve and succeed in all aspects of their education. We would utilize best education practices to address deficiencies or gaps.

9.

All persons should be treated with dignity and respect. We need to remember the principles by which our country was founded, and honor the beliefs and opinions of each person.

10.

The district has stated its belief that each person has worth and is entitled to be treated with dignity and respect. Further, a clean, safe, and healthy environment is necessary for the well-being of each individual. These are sound beliefs and should be supported by our entire community as important elements to personal and intellectual development.

11.

Salaries are an important element in retaining and attracting teachers. We must work to retain our outstanding existing teachers, and avoid having them leave to find higher paying jobs. Attracting new teachers with compensation packages that encourage long term commitment will create stability. Our salaries need to be adjusted upward, while insisting on superior performance and accountability from our teachers.

12.

We need to devote as many resources as possible to the actual classroom education experience. Demonstrating to taxpayers, residents, parents, and students that we are utilizing our revenues wisely will strengthen trust and commitment. We must continue to work had to get our fair share of state funding.

13.

School nutrition programs should meet the students basic nutritional needs and help increase their cognitive energy to learn and achieve, making the educational process more effective. The board should ensure that students have access to healthful food choices, and provide instruction to teach healthy eating habits and proper physical activity.

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**Name:** Steven K. Mulliken

**Education:** BS, United States Military Academy; MS, Systems Administration, University of Southern California; JD, St. Louis University; Masters of Law (LL.M), University of Virginia

**Occupation:** Attorney, Shareholder in the firm of Mulliken Weiner Karsh Berg & Jolivet, P.C.

**How long have you been a resident of your district?** 18 years

**How can citizens contact you if they want more information (phone, email, website)?**

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1.  
I am currently serving on the District 12 School Board and am running for re-election. I believe strongly in the importance of a good public education system, and hope to use what I have learned to make an even greater contribution to our schools during a second term.
2.  
Cheyenne Mountain schools face three key challenges. First, we must maintain adequate school funding in a hostile and uncertain state budget environment. Second, we must attract and retain the highest quality teachers. Many of our teachers will retire within five years. Third, we must constantly improve academic performance and expand opportunities for AP courses.
3.  
We have a very successful charter school in our district, and charter schools fulfill a need and generally should be supported. In reviewing a charter school application, I would scrutinize the stated purpose and vision for the school and make certain that the proponents had the qualifications and abilities to make it successful.
4.  
This is an issue that has not been hotly debated within our district, and as an elected representative I would want to engage our community in this discussion prior to reaching a decision. In general, I support providing full and accurate information to students, who I believe will get most information one way or another.
5.  
I am not familiar with the term and how you define "intelligent design."

6.

The school board should approve curriculum and textbooks. The school board should be receiving and evaluating staff recommendations as to curriculum and textbooks, and should also consider parent input.

7.

CSAPs help us measure our progress toward standards-what students should know and be able to do. We must do much better but we're not a failing district. I serve as chair of the D-11 Advisory Accountability Committee where parents and citizens work hard to measure achievement in multiple ways, help schools implement meaningful school improvement plans, and hold them accountable.

8.

I am not aware of an achievement gap for minorities. If it existed, the school board should determine why the gap exists, and how it can be addressed. In our district, we believe every student's performance is important and should be monitored.

9.

The law provides relatively clear guidelines to regulate the appropriate and inappropriate conduct of teachers in classrooms, and that law should be followed in public schools. Students have a right to pursue their own religious beliefs if they do not endanger others or disrupt other students' learning.

10.

Creating a safe school environment begins with teaching citizenship and mutual respect of all students at the grade school level. Standards for acceptable conduct must be established and those policies strictly enforced.

11.

Two years ago we successfully passed a mill levy override so we could raise teacher salaries. We have made progress, but our teachers remain underpaid for their work, especially in light of the level of their performance.

12.

Adequate state funding is a challenge. I am supporting Referendums C & D. If passed, they will help relieve pressure, but do not guaranty adequate funding. I would continue to promote the need for Amendment 23. If state funding becomes inadequate, I would ask voters to pass a further mill levy override.

13.

I believe that nutrition is important to school performance. Most kids have poor eating habits, and we can do more within our schools to offer and teach good nutrition.

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