

Dr. Jennifer Perry

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Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools

MEMORANDUM

To: Candidate – Board of Education
From: Jennifer Perry, Deputy Superintendent
Date: September 5, 2023
Re: Candidate Information and Forum Details
CC: Kelly Bates, President, CCSD Board of Education
Chris Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Sonja McKenzie, Esq., CCSD General Counsel, District Election Coordinator

Please review the following information as it is intended to support a successful election process in the Cherry Creek School District. This information pertains to opportunities to interact and campaign with the community. If you have legal questions regarding the election process, please contact Sonja McKenzie, the Designated Election Official for the District and CCSD General Counsel. If you have questions regarding the following information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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1. Request for candidate information to be posted on the district website

Please send an *updated resume as well as a picture to be posted on the website*. In addition, return your answers to the following questions (there is no expectation of length, format, or depth of response; however, please do not simply forward campaign literature). This information will be posted on the District 2023 Board of Education Election Site. Answers are posted exactly as they are received. Please send your responses in a pdf format.

- a. Why are you seeking an appointment to the CCSD Board of Education, and what policies will you prioritize if elected?

I am running because I am concerned about slipping academic performance, safety and security, and a lack of partnership with parents in our schools. If elected, I pledge to prioritize these three issues, and to use my experience and expertise to work with the other board members and make improvements in all three areas.

- b. What experiences and qualifications do you have that uniquely prepare you to be a CCSD Board of Education member?

I worked my way through Georgia Tech’s co-op program, earning a degree in aerospace engineering. Following college, I joined the Navy and learned to fly, serving for over eight years before attending law school, graduating *summa cum laude*. I have spent over twenty-five years as a trial attorney in private and public practice, while two of our three children attended Cherry Creek schools. These experiences provided me with a profound appreciation of the importance of a good education, and skills that will be needed to return our schools to academic excellence.

- c. In which school or district organizations are you, or have you been active? PTCOs, PASS, IPAC, DAC, SEAC, GTPC, Leadership Cherry Creek, etc.?

My wife and I were active and involved in the education of our three children, attending parent-teacher conferences, back-to-school nights, assemblies, sporting events, and many other functions. As a licensed attorney, I did *pro bono* work for the community, winning awards from both my law firm and the Rocky Mountain Childrens Law Center. While I viewed this as the most productive use of my limited free time, I also served on a committee of fathers for three years where we put on an event for middle school boys titled "Courage for the Journey," with speakers such as then mayor John Hickenlooper, Reggie Rivers, and many other inspirational leaders.

- d. Explain in what areas you believe the Cherry Creek School District excels.

The Cherry Creek School District excels in providing diverse educational experiences, such as through its charter schools, the Innovation Campus, and the School of Expeditionary Learning. I encourage these efforts to provide multiple educational paths to serve the over 53,000 students in our district.

- e. Cherry Creek School District believes in equity for all. As a CCSD Board of Education candidate, what have you done to increase your knowledge regarding equity, including racial, gender, gender identity, and academic needs (Special Education, Gifted and Talented, English Learners)?

To the extent "equity" means fairness, as it does in the law, I also believe in equity for all. To the extent it leads to cancelling the honor of Valedictorian, in the belief it "inflicts harm" on others, I do not. Some kids test better than their peers, others are more artistic, or athletic, or better at building things, and on and on and on. Focusing children on their immutable physical characteristics, like race or biology, instead of each individual child's gifts and challenges, is counter-productive.

We obviously need and I fully support programs to address differing academic needs like Special Education, Gifted and Talented, and English Learners.

- f. What are your beliefs about the school district's responsibility to keep students safe, and does that include public health?

Families entrust our schools with their most cherished possession(s) and our future for the better part of the day, five days a week, during the school year. It is absolutely the District's responsibility to keep students and staff safe and secure in our schools. Safety and security from physical, as well as emotional, harm is the second pillar of our platform, right after providing an academically excellent education, and before encouraging student-parent-teacher partnerships.