



CCSD Youth-led School Board Candidate Brief



CCSD Candidate Youth-led Workshop : October 25th, 2023

About

YAASPA has partnered with youth organizations across the Denver Metro area to ensure there are non-partisan youth-centered school board candidate engagements. As the customers of education, youth should be at the focal point for school board candidates. Candidate briefs built from YAASPA student fellows and researchers who pulled from candidate websites.

NOTE: This [candidate workshop was recorded and is on our YouTube Channel](#).

Media: Thank you Chalkbeat for featuring our work. Read the recent news story here: [Youth-led workshops push school board candidates to address student needs](#)

Meet The Candidates



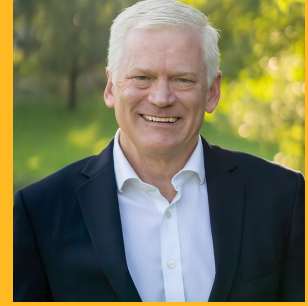
Angela Garland

Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: Y



Anne Egan

Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: Y



Steve McKenna

Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: N

Issues of Concern

High quality, professional educators

Inspiring every student to think and learn

Valuing each & every student

Responding to families

Continuously evolving & improving

Issues of Concern

Creating diverse & innovative educational pathways for all students

Raising educator salaries

Budgeting campaigns to provide resources for significant safety & security upgrades in addition to mental health resources & staffing

Issues of Concerns

Elevate math & reading proficiencies

Prioritize school safety

Student-parent-teacher partnerships

An SRO in every CCSD school, including elementary

Continuing to practice naming valedictorians.



Scott Graves

Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: N



Ruthie Knowles

Attended YAASPA candidate workshop: Y

Issues of Concern

- Strengthening parent-teacher partnerships
- Promoting free speech of minoritized people in education
- Financial responsibility work
- SRO's in every CCSD school

Issues of Concern

- Engaging families in students' education
- Expanding innovation
- Recruiting and retaining quality educators via competitive pay and professional growth opportunities
- Ensuring students have the tools they need to thrive beyond CCSD

Youth Priorities

Issue of Concern	Supports needed/ Goals for issue
Busing	<p>For many students, they need to take the bus to get to school and get back home. However, some students are not able to use the bus because they live too 'close' to the school. As a result, this may create a barrier for students to be able to attend their classes. Additionally, some buses are very late to pick up their students which may cause them to be late to either their classes, or late to getting to their homes.</p>
Lack of educators of color	<p>More emphasis must be placed on hiring and retaining teachers of color so that they feel valued and humanized. Although this issue may stem from BIPoC (Black Indigenous, People of Color) educators not applying, the district can be more transparent to at least acknowledge the contributions that these educators make for our students.</p>
Mental Health Resources	<p>Youth should be able to have easy access to their school's mental health resources. These resources should be readily available whenever and wherever a student may need help. Creating barriers or formality to it may cause students to shy away from such resources. Additionally, the more publicly such resources are advertised, students may feel comfortable with using their school's mental health resources.</p>
Public Safety	<p>The implementation of school resource officers has remained a salient point of contention among students with traumatic, first-hand experience with law enforcement. Students believe that school resource officers prevent educational environments from truly being conducive for learning and safety. We all hold a collective dedication to make schools safer, and the removal of school resource officers would not compromise school safety. Students implore school board members to consider other alternatives that do not require the use of law enforcement in school to ultimately allow students to feel safe—liberated from the domineering influence of school resource officers.</p>

Voting Information and Resources

[Find your nearest voting location](#)

Important dates:

- **October 30**
All vote centers open
- **October 31**
Last day to send your ballot back by mail
Last day to register to vote and receive a ballot by mail
All other vote centers open
- **November 7**
☆ **Election Day** ☆
Mail ballots must be returned by 7 p.m., or
Voters must be in line by 7 p.m. to cast a ballot in person
- **November 15**
Military & Overseas and Cure Deadline

Voter resources:

JUST VOTE COLORADO 

<https://justvotecolorado.org>

Election protection hotlines:

ELECTION PROTECTION 