

**2019 Official Candidate Statement  
City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska  
Deedie Sorensen  
Candidate: School Board Member**



**Name:** Deedie Sorensen

**Office Sought:** School Board Member

**Residence Address:** 6903 Sunny Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

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**Email Address:** [deedie.sorensen51@gmail.com](mailto:deedie.sorensen51@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.Deediesorensenschoolboard.com](http://www.Deediesorensenschoolboard.com)

**Age:** 68

**Occupation:** Part-time clerical staff-medical reception and billing  
Retired Elementary Teacher – regular and special education

**Spouse's Name:** Stephen Sorensen

**Children's Names:** Thomas Sorensen

**Place of Birth:** Billings, Montana

**Length of Residency in Juneau:** 38 years

**Education:** BA University of Montana-Sociology and Anthropology  
BA University of Montana School of Education – Elementary Education  
MS Eastern Montana College-Education – Early Childhood Education

**Business and Professional Positions:**

I started teaching in 1973. I moved to Juneau in 1981 to teach special and regular education. Over the years I taught at Glacier Valley, Gastineau, and Mendenhall River usually in the primary grades. After retiring in 2010, I continued to work selectively as a long term and daily substitute teacher at the elementary level until 2018. I am currently embracing learning new skills by working part-time in a clerical/billing position in a medical office.

**Special Interests:**

Landscaping and gardening, jewelry making, reading

**Other appropriate information:**

**Biographical Information** *[limited to 150 words or less.]:*

I met my husband, Stephen Sorensen, at the University of Montana. I started teaching full time in Montana. I quickly realized that even as a kindergarten teacher, I needed more skills to reach some of my students. I earned a Master's Degree focused on early learning and later a graduate endorsement to teach students with learning disabilities. In the years after I moved to Juneau in 1981, I was fortunate to be teaching here when there was an explosion in the field of brain research and learning theory and its implications for teaching and learning. There were many opportunities for professional development, and opportunities to apply what I was learning in my classroom. Over the years, I was actively involved as a parent in my son's schools and activities, as a teacher on Site Councils and various JSD Committees and as a member of the Juneau Education Association.

**Position Statement** *[limited to 250 words or less.]:*

I have years of relevant academic, classroom and district committee experience in the Juneau schools. My experiences give me a unique ability to connect with the stakeholders in our schools (families, staff, students, community members) and inform policy decisions and funding priorities. I am running because I want my real-life experiences teaching our children to help inform decisions in the following areas:

School Safety: Everyone in our schools needs to feel and be safe

I have experienced first-hand the reduction of quality instructional time as safety/behavioral challenges and threats both external and internal have escalated in the last decade. I do not believe that our students and staff feel safe in our schools.

- Evaluate student and staff perceptions of physical and emotional safety and how it affects quality instructional time.
- Evaluate student, parent, staff perceptions of district support and assistance with student/school safety issues.
- Engage students, staff, parents and community in robust discussions to quantify and clarify concerns and possible ways to address those concerns.
- Use stakeholder input to develop, communicate and implement a plan to improve quality instructional time for students and staff by addressing safety concerns.

**Position Statement cont...**

Clear Learning Outcomes: Updated District approved curricula in all areas

Meaningful Useful Assessment:

- Align assessments with learning outcomes being taught
- Results of assessments are used to inform, adjust and differentiate instruction
- All assessments must be evaluated for cultural bias

Early Childhood Education:

- Developmentally appropriate programs
- Focus on social skills and learning behaviors for school success
- School readiness skills