

2022 Official Candidate Statement

City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska

Deedie Sorensen

Candidate: School Board Member



Name: Deedie Sorensen

Office Sought: Board Member-Juneau School District Board of Education

Residence & Mailing Address: 6903 Sunny Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

Email Address: deedie.sorensen51@gmail.com

Age: 71

Occupation: 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: 41 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
Graduate Endorsement in Special Education- Eastern Montana College -Learning Disabilities

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 embraced learning new skills by working part-time in a clerical/billing position in a medical office until December 2021. Since January 2022, I have been exploring retirement.

Special Interests: Landscaping and gardening, jewelry making, reading

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

I met my husband, Stephen Sorensen, at the University of Montana. I taught elementary age students in both regular and special education programs from 1973 to 2018. I started teaching in Juneau in 1981. 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. Beginning in the mid 1990's there was an explosion in the field of brain research and its implications for teaching and learning. This fueled my personal and professional exploration and implementation of research based and peer reviewed methodologies best suited to help my students master curricular goals. For the past three years I have worked to continue this student learning centered focus as a member of the Board of Education.

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

I have years of relevant academic, classroom, district committee experience and now three years of experience on the Board of Education. 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 for re-election to continue to use real-life experiences teaching our children to inform decisions in many areas including the following:

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

Families of staff and students need to believe those they love are safe in our schools. Instructional time continues to be lost as safety/behavioral challenges both internal and external continue to be identified.

- Our school district has made facility changes to make buildings safer.
- Added social, emotional and behavioral staff to support students.

The district needs to continue to:

- Evaluate student, staff and family concerns of physical and emotional safety and how it affects quality instructional time.
- Carefully review the results of the independent investigation into the breach of food safety protocols and implement subsequent recommendations

Clear Learning Outcomes - Updated District approved curricula in all areas

Advocacy Statement *[continued.]*

Meaningful Useful Assessment –

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

Early Childhood Education

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