

UA Neighbors:

As we consider several fine candidates for the UA Board of Education in this election, I would like to share my thoughts with you about one of them in particular: Our neighbor and my friend, Lori Trent.

What are my best hopes for a Board of Education member here in UA? A couple of simple things. In my career as a school principal (13 years at Wickliffe) I hired a lot of people and during those times I was never looking for the best teacher. Instead, I was always looking for the best learner, because quite frankly the best learners always are the best teachers. And having known Lori Trent for over 20 years, I can honestly say she is a tremendous learner. Yes, she does indeed have relevant education and business experience and is more than qualified in her credentials, but it is her **ability to be an empathic listener** that I most value and I believe would serve the community well.

Also, I want a Board of Education member who **embraces the role of the leader as listener**. Lori really listens in order to genuinely understand people's various perspectives. Actually, I see Lori as the kind of person that you'd trust and would like to have as a next door neighbor. In fact, for several years, she literally was my next door neighbor. As a neighbor, I never once wondered what her test scores were. Instead, I applied a much more rigorous, real-life test: Was she decent? Collaborative? Trustworthy? Intellectually curious? Dependable? She passed!

Finally, I believe schools should be places of passion, joy, and imagination... for children and adults. I want a Board of Education member that will be a steward of that sort of vision — someone who views schools as caring communities and creative spaces of civic respect for one another. **I believe Lori Trent is exactly the kind of person we all need to serve as a Board of Education member for UA schools.**

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