



Amira Assad-Lucas

Board of Education Candidate

Director District 4

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Notice of Intent to be a Candidate Secretary of State Registration

1. Tell us about yourself and your connection to the Adams 12 Five Star School District.

My name is Amira Assad-Lucas and I am a Licensed Professional Counselor who has worked in clinical and school settings. I currently provide therapeutic services in a group private practice working with adults with a variety of disabilities. I'm a mother to four children, three of which are currently in the district, ranging from kindergarten to 9th grade, and my youngest will start attending the district preschool program in January of 2022. I have also had the opportunity to engage in many volunteer experiences with individual Adams 12 schools, at the district level, and in the community. I have been serving as my children's elementary school PTO president since 2014. I currently serve as a member on the Adams 12 District Health Advisory Committee and just joined the Adams 12 Finance and Audit Committee. I have served on the first cohort of the Adams 12 Leadership Academy during the 2015-2016 academic year. I was one of two parents, along with a district member, to develop and implement the Parents Leadership Action Network (PLAN) in the district. I volunteered with Adams 12 Community Action Network (CAN) to help support the bond and mil levy campaigns that brought additional funding for our schools, our students, and educators. I volunteered as a mental health professional to provide emotional/social services and support at an elementary school within the district for students identified of needing extra support. I am also a member of the Adams 12 GT Parent Group and have engaged in the Parent Advocacy Network through the Colorado Association of School Executives to gain more knowledge about the educational needs of our students throughout Colorado. I have also been a member of the National Federation of the Blind of Colorado since 2019 and I am currently serving as president of Colorado Parents of Blind Children and sit on the board for the National Organization of Parents of Blind Children.

2. What are your goals as a member of the Board of Education?

My goals are to continue increasing mental health resources and services within our schools. I would like to see more mental health professionals present in our schools to assist with educators and special service providers in providing a learning environment that will help all students thrive and grow emotionally, socially, and academically. I also want to continue addressing equitable education for students based on academic, social, and emotional needs. I will continue to develop the work that has been done with family involvement and continue building resources that will support families and their student's success. I will also continue addressing educational funding and work with legislators to make funding education a priority for our district.

3. What do you think will be the top issue facing Adams 12 Five Star Schools in five years? How would you propose to address it?

A top issue Adams 12 will still be facing in the next four years will be adequate educational funding. Currently, Colorado ranks 47th nationally in per pupil funding. As a result, Adams 12 is limited with funding extra educational services and resources for our students compared to other states. An issue with inadequate funding is the inability to offer competitive salaries and wages to our educators and district/school staff. This makes it more difficult to attract and retain high quality educators, support service providers, staff, and other employees pertinent to the district. Funding is essential to provide programs and opportunities to help ensure student success. I will continue the work with other elected officials to support and advocate for measures that will increase educational funding and support changing restrictive funding limits that hinder the progression of educational services.

4. What is your vision for Adams 12 Five Star Schools and how would you support this as a member of the Board?

My vision is to support the wellbeing of all students by continuing to provide a caring, supportive, and safe environment for them to grow and thrive. It is important to recognize each student as an individual and understand their academic, social, and emotional needs to help ensure their success. My vision is to continue focusing on the whole child and not just strengthening literacy, science, social studies, and math but to also strengthen critical thinking, problem solving, life skills, respect, resilience, and empathy. I want to continue increasing and adapting alternative options that are offered to all students to assist in meeting their individual academic, social and emotional needs. I believe quality of education is essential for long term success for students and our community. If I am elected to the board, I will continue to increase parent engagement. For students to be successful, they need to be supported at school and home. I will strive to make decisions about curriculum that align with research and science-based methods. I will always take the best interest of students into account with decision and policy making.