

Biographical Statement for Jeffrey Wood

For the past 16 years I have been a Social studies teacher at Hazen High School in the Renton School District. I am currently piloting a Sophomore World Studies program and teach Government and Contemporary World Issues to seniors. Our World Studies program is currently in its third year of implementation. As part of our implementation plan we have created a World Studies Curriculum that teaches common topics, themes and skills. We have also teamed with our sophomore world literature teachers to integrate and parallel teach our classes. As part of this integration we share common students to better make connections and to be able to quickly identify and work with those who are struggling.

I am currently a member of Hazen High School's School Improvement Committee who is charged with the task of meeting the needs of all students at Hazen High School. The committee focus is to research and implement programs that meet the diverse needs of all our students. Our goal is to create an opportunity for all of our students to graduate on time and with the necessary skills to be successful after high school. This committee works in conjunction with the Renton School District to implement consistent and data driven best practices that our students' district wide will benefit from.

Currently I am serving on the Issaquah School District Boundary Review Committee. The task of this committee is to take a comprehensive look at where our community's 16,000 students will attend school once the district's new elementary school is completed and high school renovations are finished.

This fall I have the privilege of serving as a member of the Clark Elementary Site Council. As member of site council I serve as a voice for our community and work with the principle and staff to promote student learning. I am also a member of Clark's PTA working to enhance the learning experience for the students there.

For the past twenty-two years I have coached high school athletics, three of those years I assisted as a volunteer. During my coaching career I have served as an assistant football coach for eight years, an assistant girl's basketball coach for seven years, baseball for six years as an assistant as well as head coach, and sixteen years of girls fastpitch the last nine years serving as the head coach. I am currently the head golf coach for both boys and girls at Hazen High School. For the past two years I have volunteered as a youth boys and girls baseball coach for a team made up mostly of Clark students. This fall I am volunteering as the head coach of a girls U-7 soccer team for the Issaquah Soccer Club.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Education, with a minor in Social Studies, from Pacific Lutheran University. I have a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from City University. In 2004 I completed the certification program to teach Advanced Placement Government.

Why you want to serve on the school board and how your experience, training, and interest can contribute to effective District governance?

I have lived in Issaquah for sixteen years and believe this is a special and unique place. Living in a place like Issaquah I believe that it is important that I contribute to the community that has been so important to me and my family. I have been looking for the opportunity to do this for several years now. When I heard Mr. Winkler had resigned I realized this was a perfect opportunity to give back to the Issaquah community and further expand my passion of working in public education.

I have had the privilege of working in public education for 17 years (22 counting coaching). In that time I have worked hard to improve the educational experience for all children. Public education is unique in that we must educate all children regardless. In no other institution are we required to take whatever raw materials we receive and make a polished, productive product. This is public education's greatest tenant and it is its greatest challenge; all children must learn and must be equipped to lead productive and satisfying lives. Only through dedication, strong leadership and a commitment from all parties can this challenge be met. I believe that the school board plays a vital role in providing the long term vision and support necessary to meet this challenge. I look forward to that opportunity.

Living in Issaquah and working in education has provided me with a variety of unique and applicable experiences that will better enable me to serve on its school board. As a member of this community I have had the privilege of working with several different community organizations. I am an active member of the Elks club which supports the local chapter of Compassion House and provides scholarships to local high school students. I volunteer with the Issaquah Little League and the Issaquah Soccer Club. I have been a member of Clark Elementary PTA for the past two years and last spring I was fortunate to be chosen to serve on the Clark Elementary Site Council. During the past nine months I have worked on the Issaquah school districts Boundary Review Committee. All of these experiences have given me the opportunity to meet and work with people who have a vested interest in creating the best community and school district for our children. As a member of the Issaquah School Board I look forward to ensuring that their hopes for their children and mine become a reality.

Public education has gone through a dynamic change over the past 16 years. We as educators have been forced to dramatically change our approach to how we educate. In the past we shut the door, taught the best we could and hoped it was good enough. There was very little comprehensive direction nor were there many standards to evaluate whether we were actually doing what was right. Fortunately, education is moving away from the closed door policy and towards a comprehensive, data driven, best practices system.

I have been an active member of several committees that have looked at ways to improve student achievement at the high school level. One of these that I served was looking at if and how smaller learning communities could be an effective tool to improving student learning in a comprehensive high school setting. As a school we adopted a modified SLC system that made sense and was sustainable over a long period of time. As an educator helping to pilot this program I have been able to look at hard data and have seen marked improvement in our students ability to effectively read and write. The district I work for recently was awarded a Summit Grant to improve student learning at all levels. As a member of the School Improvement Committee I hope that we can take what we have learned and combine it with other best practices and create a district wide plan for powerful and effective teaching. As an educator who is actively involved in creating a system wide dynamic plan for powerful teaching I

will be able to offer a unique perspective and understanding of the process that the Issaquah School District has embarked on.

I look forward to serving the 16000 students that are part of the Issaquah School Districts community. I believe that with the 2020 plan for powerful learning and the continued evaluation of best practices and their applications we can create a district that meets the needs of all students and provide them with the opportunity live satisfying and productive lives.

Questions for Candidates:

My view of the role of public education in our society.

I believe public education is the foundation for a successful society. An educational system must empower its children to lead productive and satisfying lives. Public education is charged with teaching our children the knowledge and skills to meet a complex and ever changing work place. With that goal it must prepare students to be lifelong learners and give them the skills necessary to pursue higher education or career training. Public education is also charged with teaching our children why and how to be active and informed citizens. This is an extremely complex task that requires a long term vision and a commitment to all of it's' children.

What skills and abilities will students need in the future?

To be successful in the workplace?

I believe we cannot predict all of the skills and abilities a student will need in a dynamic and ever changing work place. A k-12 educational system must give them the foundation to be successful in whatever career they choose. Students upon graduation must be able to communicate effectively, work in a multicultural environment, and have the ability to adapt to new technological job demands. It is also imperative that students understand the importance of being a lifelong learner in order to succeed in the future work environment.

To be responsible citizens?

In order for students to be responsible citizens it is important that they understand their role in the community where they live. A responsible citizen is actively involved in creating a better community for all. Students need to be taught how to get involved and why it is important. Students must also realize the value of being an informed citizen. Students need to recognize the dangers of making decisions based on sound bites and rhetoric. Students must be able to examine issues from multiple perspectives and then evaluate what is best for themselves and their community.

To lead satisfying and productive lives?

A key to a person living productive and satisfying life is that they have a passion for what they are doing. Schools should provide as many opportunities as possible for students to find that passion. Students should have a wide variety of classes to choose from as well as a broad range of extra-curricular opportunities.

Being able to grow in ones professional and personal life is also an important factor in a person's ability to lead a satisfying and productive life. This requires a person to have the skills to adapt in a rapidly changing world or take on new opportunities as they arise. As a school district we need to prepare our students to be life-long learners so when new and unfamiliar opportunities arise they can take on that challenge with confidence.

Do you think that a public school district can have all of its students graduate on time? Why or why not?

I believe that the goal of a public school system should be to have all students graduate on time. I also believe that a diploma should mean the same thing for all who earn it. At the same time I also understand that not every student fits into a one size fits all system. In order for school districts to have all students graduate on time there must be multiple and meaningful pathways to graduation. No matter what pathway is chosen it still must provide students with the opportunity to pursue higher education or advance job training. Every student who enters the public school system should graduate on time and with the skills and experiences to live satisfying and productive lives.

Do you think that high school graduation requirements should be such that all students graduate with sufficient credits to attend an in-state four-year college, if they so choose?

I believe that a high school diploma should create opportunity for graduates not limitations. When a student receives his or her diploma it should open doors to their future. To that end I believe that graduation requirements should be sufficient to allow students to attend an in-state institution of higher learning. Having higher graduation requirements promotes rigor and ensures that all students will be better prepared for life's challenges after high school. In our pursuit of rigor we must meet the needs all students. Within the system there must be opportunities for students to pursue a passion or further challenge themselves regardless of their post high school plans.

What experiences have you had working in groups, particularly community or school groups?

For the past 16 years I have worked on a variety of committees ranging from curriculum and resource adoption, to discipline, to examining and implementing best practices for teaching. For the past six years I have been involved in researching and implementing smaller learning communities at Hazen High School. The past 9 months I have served as the Clark Elementary school representative to the Issaquah School District's Boundary Review Committee. This past spring I was fortunate to be selected to serve on Clark's Site Council. I have also served as a board member of the local Elk's club working to support local and national charities. Working on these committees I worked with people who have diverse and unique perspectives. Successfully achieving the goals of these committees takes hard work and dedication.

Give examples of how you have shown leadership within the above groups.

Showing leadership on a committee is not necessarily being the chairperson or the member with most seniority. Leadership involves a willingness to set aside your own personal biases and focus on what is in the best interest of those that will be affected. Leadership on a committee involves being prepared with as much information as possible. It involves identifying all of the stakeholders and listening to their concerns. It takes a commitment to examining all of the different viewpoints that people will have, especially those that are different than your own. When a leader has as much information as possible, they then thoughtfully examine what they have learned. Only then will a leader make a decision based on the goals of the committee and what is best for all involved. As a member of the Issaquah S.D. Boundary Review Committee I have consistently used that process to make decisions. The issues, at times are complex and emotional. I have worked hard to listen and learn when making decisions to ensure that my position is well founded and makes sense for all parties involved.

Give an example of a time when you had to enlarge or set aside your own personal view to serve the interests of the larger group.

As a Clark representative to the Issaquah Boundary Review Committee I had a specific goal of ensuring that the children who attend Clark would be well represented. As we delved into the process it became evident that we were asked to do much more than that. It was clear that our responsibility was to do what was best for all of the 16000 students of the Issaquah School District. Throughout the process I have put aside what I thought would be in Clark's best interest and made a decision based on what was best for all the students involved. Working with forty plus people to create a long term plan for success has been very rewarding and I look forward to continuing that process as a member of the Issaquah School Board.

What is your view of the Policy Governance model? Do you have any concerns about your role as an individual board member working with Policy Governance?

I believe that the Policy Governance model used by the Issaquah School Board is an effective and appropriate method for representing the interests of the community. The community entrusts the School Board to create general policies that reflect it's' desire to have an outstanding school district. The School Board then has the responsibility of appointing and monitoring the performance of the individual whom they choose to carry out the Board's goals. This model provides clear responsibilities and requirements for each party involved. It allows the school district to carry out the communities goals without undo interference. At the same time it does hold the superintendent accountable to the community for the success of it's' schools.

How would you reach out to members of our community that do not ordinarily come to public meetings?

The School Board is public entity whose purpose is to reflect the goals and values of the community. Because of this the school board must be open and transparent in all that it does. Those who are unable to attend the meetings must have access to other means of monitoring the actions of the school board. The internet has become a tremendous resource for providing that information. Having the minutes and podcasts online is an easy way for people to monitor the activities of the School Board. Being accessible to your constituents is important as well. Responding to emails and phone calls is a key responsibility when a person is public servant. A person who is representing a group of people also needs to be available to attend meetings and events where people can express their ideas and views. Area 4 is large and diverse in its population. It would be my responsibility as the Area 4 representative to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to express their hopes and concerns.



RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 403

HAZEN HIGH SCHOOL

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John Kniseley
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Craig Cooper
Assistant Principal

Giovanna San Martin
Assistant Principal

October 1, 2008

To Whom It May Concern;

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to write a letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Jeffrey Wood. I have had the opportunity to work with Jeff over the past thirteen years as a teacher and as his Department Chairman. Mr. Wood is a dedicated teacher, an excellent coach and outstanding colleague. He has made an impact on students, staff and administrators alike.

From the very beginning of his tenure at Hazen, Mr. Wood has been a tremendous educational asset. He has taught almost every Social Studies course in our curriculum and has been a driving force in our department. Additionally Jeff has continually strived to improve himself as a teacher through workshops and coursework. Most recently, he has collaborated extensively with other Social Studies and Language Arts teachers in the development of our World Studies curriculum and joined our School Improvement Team. As an educator I appreciate his efforts on behalf of students and teachers. His long experience as an educator will benefit the community greatly.

Mr. Wood is a highly involved member of the Community beyond his teaching commitments. He has coached Football, Fastpitch, Golf and Basketball at Hazen and has coached Issaquah community soccer and Little League. He has been and continues to be an outstanding role model for his students, athletes and fellow teachers. It is not an exaggeration to say that Jeff Wood is one of the most dedicated professional educators I have come across in my career. He would be an asset to any school district that he works with. I would not hesitate to work with or for Jeff Wood if given the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Crueger", written over a horizontal line.

Brett Crueger
Social Studies Department Chair



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John Kniseley
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Craig Cooper
Assistant Principal

Giovanna San Martin
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To Whom It May Concern,

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Jeff Wood. I have known Jeff for eight years as a teacher and a coach at Hazen High School and he has always been a champion for what is best for the students and the school.

As the Athletic Director at Hazen I have seen firsthand the level of caring that Jeff has for his student athletes. Not only does he teach them how to play the game but he helps them become better people. He has coached boys and girls at Hazen and done an outstanding job with both. He has been heavily involved in the development of the Social Studies curriculum here at Hazen, holding firm to a curriculum that best suits the needs of the students and meets the District and State learning requirements. Jeff is a leader in the continuing development of the School Improvement Planning Committee, a member of the Smaller Schools Development committee and the Hazen PTSA.

Beyond his teaching and coaching experience Jeff has been involved in the Issaquah community where he lives. He has been a member of the Issaquah Boundary Review committee, a volunteer for the Issaquah Little League Program and a volunteer coach for the Issaquah Soccer Club. He is also a member of the Clark Elementary PTA and has worked on the Clark Elementary Site Council.

Jeff Wood is a man deeply involved in the Hazen High School community and the Issaquah community where he lives. He is a family man with a high level of integrity and at his core is a person who is involved in the lives of young people who consistently teaches them what it means to be a good citizen and a positive contributor to society.

He has my unconditional support for the position he is pursuing. If you should need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gary Schaplow

Hazen High School

October 6, 2008

To: Issaquah School District
From: Robert L. Davis

Re: Mr. Jeffrey Wood

As a former supervisor and evaluator of Mr. Jeff Wood at Hazen High School, Renton School District, it is my privilege to write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Wood to become a member of the Issaquah School Board. Mr. Wood has over fifteen years of experience as teacher and coach of students. His commitment, passion and concern for students is of the highest quality and character. Throughout his career he has coached all students in a variety of sports. He has been a vital colleague in developing and improving student learning. He has years of experience working with school support groups such as athletic booster associations and PTSA organizations.

As a parent with a daughter in the Issaquah School District, Mr. Wood has now expanded his interests, knowledge, skills, and commitments to include serving on the Issaquah Boundary Review committee, volunteering for the little league and soccer clubs, serving on the Clark Elementary Site Council, and being an active member of the Clark Elementary PTSA.

Mr. Wood is committed to providing the best possible educational experiences in and out of the classrooms for all students in the Issaquah School District. He is up to date in the latest and best practices of instruction and learning for students. He brings a high energy level and is able to communicate effectively to bring about new solutions and programs that support a diverse population of students in a community that cares. Without question, Mr. Wood can bring enthusiasm, commitment, and sound judgment to the difficult and dynamic task of providing leadership and responsibility to the district. Mr. Wood has my whole hearted support and confidence in his desire to make the students and community of Issaquah a very successful school district.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Davis
Assistant Principal, Retired
Hazen High School
Renton School District