

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COEUR D'ALENE: Christa Hazel, mother of two and former businesswoman, today announces her application for the appointment process to the Coeur d'Alene School Board of Trustees Zone 1. This seat became vacant following Trustee Jim Purtee's resignation last month due to health concerns.

Christa Hazel holds her Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho School of Law. She has previous business experience through her 7 years of employment with Manis Investigations, Inc., a local business that provided security consulting to Fortune 500 companies nationwide. Hazel supervised multi-million dollar contracts, managed 70-75 retired federal agent independent contractors working in multiple markets, and executed insurance and contract negotiations with clients and service providers. She left the company to spend more time at home with her children. Hazel stated, "I believe that my legal training, business background and my involvement as a mother of children in our school district can provide a unique perspective for our board of trustees in policy decisions and contract negotiations."

Christa Hazel has extensive experience within the local educational community. She served on the district's Long Range Planning Committee for four years and helped developed the current Ten Year Long Range Plan. She has served on the EXCEL Foundation Board of Directors that provides grant money to fund local school programs that would otherwise go unfunded. This past summer, Hazel co-chaired the bond levy steering committee fundraising efforts and was actively involved in its passage. She is currently the Vice President of the Bryan Elementary PTA.

Christa Hazel stated, "Between now and the May election, there will be many important topics of discussion at the district level. We need a board with diverse opinions engaging in healthy dialogue for the well-being of our schools and our commitment to taxpayers". Hazel cited the upcoming Maintenance & Operations Levy as an example, where it is expected budget cuts will be made before reaching the March ballot. "I am open to all ideas that could result in a cost savings to our taxpayers, but I would carefully weigh the savings against the impact on our students and staff. I appreciate the fine line this Board is walking in protecting the health of our district while attempting to choose a levy rate that would be supported in an election."

Also occurring will be construction on the bond that provides for upgrades to five schools in three years. "I helped draft the Long

Range Plan that identified those safety and security related issues. I rolled up my sleeves to work hard in the bond's passage. I remain dedicated to this project and believe that the architectural planning and construction phases must meet the expectations of parents and taxpayers. We need to deliver what was promised and be transparent throughout the process," said Hazel.

"The appointment comes at a critical time for our district. We have a short period of time and a lot of ground to cover," Hazel added. "I am committed to providing a reasonable conservative voice, a listening ear, and my experience as a volunteer. I understand that board decisions affect my children, too."

Hazel is married to local attorney, Joel Hazel. They have two children who attend Bryan Elementary School.

Zone 1 is the largest zone geographically in the district. Zone 1 stretches roughly from the north end of Hayden Lake along the east side to the east side of Lake Coeur d'Alene to the county line. The appointee chosen will fill this position on the board through June, but will be required to run for election in May in order to continue serving.

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