

Bjorn Handeen's letter of congratulations after Coeur d'Alene trustee race

Dear Neighbors:

It was my profound joy to meet and engage with my neighbors in the last few weeks as a candidate for Coeur d'Alene School Board. I truly ran a "front porch" campaign- sometimes spending hours with individual voters, exchanging ideas about how best to serve our students. We have a fantastically astute and aware community, and I was invigorated by the discussions. I thank each and every one of the neighbors who spent time with me.

Though I am disappointed I did not win enough votes to be elected, I still consider it worthwhile to have spread the message that we need to ensure that our students have some idea about how to make a living by the time they leave our school system. My supporters agreed with this message, and agreed that revitalized vocational instruction- along with a more honest and robust career counseling program- is the first step in organizing an economic defense of this country.

While it is true that Tom Hearn and I had clear and significant ideological differences, the people of Coeur d'Alene can be proud that at no time did either campaign resort to the mud-slinging that characterizes modern political races. Mr. Hearn ran a strongly ethical campaign, and I thank him for that. We are lucky to be represented by a man of his caliber, and I congratulate him on his victory.

Your Neighbor,

Bjorn Handeen