

Trustee Tom Hearn explains why he didn't want to continue as CSB chairman – 7.8.14

It was my pleasure to nominate and vote for both Christa Hazel and Dave Eubanks to be the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Coeur d'Alene School Board. Christa has the type of personal and professional qualities and background to be an excellent Chair. Christa has impressed me in many ways in the last year. She is thoughtful, strongly committed to the schools, bright, does not make rash decisions, has a great sense of humor, is very well connected to the parents, patrons and staff of the school district and is reasonable and moderate in her views. Dave Eubanks has many other excellent qualities which I could list also and I do think it was important that Dave, as has every other Board member, have an opportunity to be in a leadership position on the School Board.

I had made a decision some months ago that I was not interested in being Chair again this next year, though maybe again sometime in the future. It made sense for lots of reasons that I won't go into for me to be Chair last year as we transitioned to a new school board after a very contentious election. The decision of the community last year based on the very strong winning percentages of the new board members was for a change in the direction of the Board. I think I have helped lead that change but it is now time for Christa to lead the school board and she will do an excellent job and will be acceptable to some groups in the community that didn't like me in the Chair position.

Christa is a young woman with a political future if she wants one though maybe not in the current local dysfunctional Republican Party. She is not an ideologue and will actually listen to anybody including Independents and Democrat which shows great leadership, but is considered heretical by some people in local politics.

Dave Eubanks is well respected and liked by many people in the community and particularly in the schools. Whenever a group of us have made public appearances Dave always gets the loudest ovation and we have joked about him being the "rock star" on the Board. He will be an excellent Vice Chair. Being on the school board has never been an ego thing for me. I've had no big need to be Chair. I decided to run last year for the board because I felt I could help the district and community by helping to guide the school board in a more positive direction after a very difficult and contentious couple of years that the community certainly has not forgotten. I've had a couple of missteps but I think overall the District and the Board are headed in a positive direction. Now if the legislature would just get on board and restore funding which is over 4 million dollars less than it was 6 years ago.

I look forward to our new leadership team and I hope people will support them in the months ahead with the many challenges the school district is facing.