

PATH

Parent Advocates for Tahoma's Highly-Capable (PATH) is a parent-founded, non-profit advocacy and support group that advocates for Tahoma School District (the "District") students deemed "Highly Capable". PATH's mission is to help these students excel socially, emotionally and academically.

The PATH Board invites you to answer questions related to the District's Highly Capable program. Your responses will be provided directly to PATH parents, unedited. Please either interlineate responses below or prepare your responses separately and attach them.

1. What is your name? JAMIE MARIE MCCARREY FAIRBANKS
2. Why are you running for office? I am running for office because I love kids and our schools. More importantly I believe all students need a voice and I bring both a unique perspective and vast experience that is not currently represented on our board. Additionally, I bring my years as a secondary public school teacher and the last eight years where I have actively helped in Tahoma's Elementary Schools as a parent volunteer and PTA member. I can bring that perspective of experience along with my ability to listen and work with all kinds of people and backgrounds.
3. Describe your familiarity with Tahoma School District's Highly Capable program and how you believe it compares to other districts' Highly Capable programs. While I do not have personal experience in the Highly Capable program I was the PTA president and parent at Shadow Lake Elementary, which was the districts highly capable school for many years. Additionally, my work with the school brought me into every classroom at Shadow Lake and so I got to know both Ms. White and Ms. Chase who have been highly capable teachers for years in Tahoma. I also work with various groups throughout the community and have many friends who currently have students in the Highly Capable program. In comparison to other districts HiCap programs, I would say ours is good at the elementary level but could use improvement when it comes to our secondary schools.
4. What changes (if any) for Tahoma School District's Highly Capable program would you endorse? I would love to see the highly capable program extend into the middle school and high school experience. I think we fail these students by not giving them support after their elementary years. We work so hard to give them a good start to school but then we don't support them in some of their most critical years. I believe this is an area of improvement for us and I am excited about the opportunity to extend these services for students. Additionally, having spoken to many parents who have had to come and advocate for their students for additional testing in order to be placed in the Highly Capable program, I realize we need to improve our approach. I would like to see literature sent home telling parents about additional testing and how it is possible to be placed in the Highly Capable program even if they do not score high enough on both tests. If we truly want

to have all Highly Capable students in our program, then we need to make sure all parents know about the program and how to advocate for their student.

5. What do you want parents of Tahoma School District children deemed “Highly Capable” to know about you? I am someone who is ready to learn more about the program and listen to parents. I will always have an open door and a listening ear. I will work hard to make sure their student is supported and advocated for. I feel every student deserves the best education possible and this includes their child.