



**John D. Guttenberg**  
**Board of Education Candidate**

**1. Tell us about yourself and your connection to the Elizabeth School District.**

I'm a 67 year old retired Army Sergeant Major, graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeant Major Academy at Fort Bliss, TX, as well as other U.S. Army Schools. While in the army, I had to manage a budget of \$43million and was responsible for the health, welfare and training of 537 soldiers. I have an Associate's Degree from Pikes Peak College in Colorado Springs. I am a four term past Commander of The American Legion Post 82 in Elizabeth, life member of the VFW and DAV. I'm a Christian, fiscally conservative, Pro-life, Pro-School Choice, and Pro-2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. I am married to Sandy Guttenberg, RN, LMT, for 17 years. Grandfather of 8 wonderful kids, from 4<sup>th</sup> grade to a sophomore at CU, Boulder. The oldest is serving in the U.S. Navy.

I've lived in Elizabeth, CO for 17 years and worked with the Elizabeth School District through the American Legion Scholarship program for Elizabeth High School, and funding for Frontier High School for their fall and spring school trips, and have given supplies to them for their Thanksgiving Dinner. In my work with the American Legion Christmas food drive, I've worked closely with Singing Hill Elementary school and Frontier High school. I have made sure that the students/families of the district that are in need, receive food from American Legion for Christmas. I also work with the Pine Crest Church food bank in supporting much needed food throughout the year to families of students at Singing Hill School. As a member of the American Legion Honor Guard, I help with performing flag ceremonies at the schools and attend the schools' Veteran Day programs. I demonstrated and wrote the safety procedure for operating the black powder cannon used at Elizabeth High School football games. I have a good working relationship with the staff at both high school and Singing Hills I'm looking forward to having that same relationship with the middle school and Running Creek Elementary.

## **2. What would your goals be as a member of the Elizabeth Schools Board of Education?**

Our children are not only our future, but the future leaders of this great nation. My goal as a board member is to ensure that every student receives the best education and technology, we can give them yet still give the parents choices about where and what their children learn. To help our high school graduates further their education by transitioning to college or tech schools I feel it is important that students and teachers feel safe in school. I want to work towards teachers receiving the respect and pay they deserve. I will see that the district remains solvent. I will fight unfunded or funded government mandates that don't pass common sense tests. It's the right thing to do for our students and staff.

## **3. What do you think will be the top issue facing the Elizabeth School District over the next five years? How should the issue be addressed?**

I feel in the future that stress will become a big issue. With more stress, mental health will become a bigger issue. We need to find ways to get mental health professionals in our schools without breaking the budget. There is no reason a child should feel the only way out is suicide. I have talked with parents who have said that their children are bombarded daily over difficult issues on social media, and in person. Our children need help.

## **4. What is your vision for Elizabeth Schools and how would you support this as a member of the Board of Education?**

I have attended a couple of school board meetings and I feel the board has a solid plan for the future. I will support the present plan. It is great to see Elizabeth School District rated #4 in the Denver Metro Area. I look forward to working with the board to find innovative ways to raise money for the schools. I took the Legion food drive from making a couple hundred dollars a year, to fully funding the American Legion food drive, the scholarship programs at Elizabeth High School, fall and spring school trips for Frontier High School, American Legion Boys/Girls State, (this program is open to all junior's in high school at no cost to them, worth 4 college credit and numerous scholarship) and other community activities.