

I support incumbent State Superintendent Sherri Ybarra because she is not one of these politicians who claim to have all the answers, and yet have never worked or stepped foot in a school building. To the contrary, Superintendent Ybarra has a vast experience in education from various positions as para-professional, teacher, vice-principal, principal and district administrator. As I've heard her say countless times to educators, "I'm one of you and have walked in your shoes". She understands and knows the struggles that schools and districts face daily and works hard to assist all Idaho schools.

Full disclosure, I have known and worked with Sherri Ybarra for over twenty years. While I was Superintendent of Schools for the Mountain Home School District, I chose Sherri from a group of candidates to be an elementary building principal at a "failing" elementary school. While working diligently with the staff she successfully turned the school around. When I had an opening for a Federal Programs director at the district, I chose Sherri for her leadership skills to assist our Title One schools and Migrant populations. When Sherri became Idaho's 25th State Superintendent I chose to work for her at the state level to help all Idaho's children and school districts.

During Superintendent Ybarra's two terms she has responsibly secured nearly one hundred million dollars in new money for education each year since she took office. Working with other legislators she successfully implemented the career ladder her first year in office providing much needed raises for teachers. She has also implemented two different Governor's task force recommendations. Sherri established the first student advisory council so that she can hear first-hand what issues the students of Idaho are facing. We are now 5th in the nation for college and career ready, and the most recent statistical release for Edweek, under Superintendent Ybarra's leadership, Idaho went from 31st in the nation to 17th for achievement.

I believe Sherri Ybarra is the best candidate in the race for State Superintendent. Idaho is experiencing a critical time in Education. With issues such as the covid pandemic, school safety, teen suicide rates, State Testing Federal Mandates, etc., we don't have time for someone new to come in and learn the ropes of how to get to know and work with the legislature. Superintendent Ybarra's' track record is strong. She will continue to work with our districts and legislators to get the job done and make education in Idaho the best it can be.

Sincerely,

Tim W. McMurtrey, Retired MHSD #193 Superintendent of Schools