

Name: Mark W. Forsyth

1. Why do you want to serve on the Aspen View Academy Board of Directors?

My two Granddaughters attend AVA, the youngest in Kindergarten, and the other in Second Grade. I have volunteered in the classroom and watched as the staff of AVA lives the Mission and The Vision:

Our Mission

Aspen View Academy will succeed through academic excellence in a challenging and stimulating learning environment that emphasizes math, technology and language arts, enabling our students to become critical thinkers, responsible citizens, strong community members and future leaders.

Our Vision

We recognize that an education is incomplete without fostering the arts, sports, nature, and character. Together, with our students, faculty, parents and community, we will develop civic and personal responsibility, intellectual passion, and differentiated instruction in a safe, orderly, balanced and nurturing environment.

The Mission and Vision are consistent with my educational values that I refined through experiential learning taught at Regis University College for Professional Studies while I was earning two degrees.

I will also bring a thoughtful and critical eye to the Board as I believe that self evaluation and program evaluation are the keys to the learning process for everyone.

2. Describe any skills, talents, and abilities that will help you be an effective board member.

I am a retired Police Detective who transitioned into education taking a position as the Criminal Justice Department Chairperson at Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, CO after I earned my B.A. in Communications with a Minor in Psychology at Regis University College for Professional Studies in Denver, CO.

I took a year off from ACC to earn a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Regis with an emphasis in Language and Communication along with an Academic Certificate in Adult Learning, Training, and Development. All Regis degrees were earned with Honors.

I then accepted position as an Affiliate Faculty with the Graduate Programs at Regis facilitating courses in the Master of Arts Program with an emphasis in Communication, Criminal Justice, Interview and Interrogation, and Forensic Psychology.

While I have never taught at the Elementary level, I firmly believe that my experience as a Police Officer, Detective, and teaching at the college level gives me a foundational understanding of challenges faced by School Board members as they try to balance the needs of students, staff, administrators, and parents that make up the AVA Community.

3. How have you contributed to Aspen View Academy to date?

I have volunteered hours during recess, Library, and in the classroom.

4. Please share anything else you would like the Aspen View community to know.

We as a society have seen the results of schools acting with, or with little input, from the community and there are many things we learned. One of the most profound was that knowledge can be taught and students can pass tests, but what type of community member did we create? We need to use education to challenge our children to think about problem solving and how they will as an individual contribute to society. We must lead the way to this type of critical thinking.

While I could simply enjoy volunteering at AVA as a grandparent and providing before school/ after school daycare. I choose to offer my experience and time to contribute in a meaningful way.