

## Candidate Statement

I am Marie B Acothley a school board candidate for the Tuba City Unified School District 15 School board membership for SY2023-2026; my Navajo clan are Zuni-Edgewater \*Ta'baqha'Naasht'éezhi' born for Tłaaqshchi'í Red bottom (feet) people named after runners, I have lived in Western Navajo Nation Agency for 64 years, I was born in Tuba City and grew up in the Tuba City Boarding School K-8 and continued to Tuba City High School and later after I married my husband in 1986, a veteran and we had 7 children, and a proud grandmother of 8. Like myself all my children raised in Tuba City Az. Navajo Nation/Coconino County. During my life here in Navajo Nation Tuba City, AZ/Coconino County I invested into education continuously serving in school board capacity, where I have made a lifelong commitment for to advocate for my local community schools as leader (2005-2022).

Next, as a parent, leader and a community member, I have served also in the local chapter governance, as well as employment with TCUSD#15, and neighboring schools as a custodian, substitute teacher, ESS Teacher Assistant, Substitute teacher/monitor for in school suspension and parent committee membership broadened my mind on challenges facing our schools and youth at the state and national level on lessened budget appropriations. This capacity enhanced opportunities for me to advocate/lobby for schools on educational needs. My interest has always been representing my community schools on issues and shortfalls, so for many years I endeavored to be part of the local and national level advocacy by attending annual and local meetings, conferences to strategize on improving modern education for our children.

Accordingly, COVID19 pandemic phenomenon was a negative impact on our educational entities and programs, it effected achievement shortfalls, attendance, and facility accommodation. This phenomenon has lapsed so many educational growth opportunities for our own, so as leader we continued to advocate and lobby for more funds to make up for delayed educational services, and ensuring safety. I always want to mention those we lost to the pandemic, that left us all with voids in our lives, and that through education, we can better prepare for our selves and advocate for prevention, and foresight on what is unexpected.

Current school board capacity with Native Technology Institute CTED, I continue to be part of our students, exiting high school whereas; students do not always have the opportunity to continue education beyond High School right out of high school due to the lack of jobs, in our local rural communities and poverty challenges, does not ensure higher educational opportunities and that is where I am/will advocate at the local and national level for appropriations. There is so many other efforts, that in the leadership capacity can be accomplished, and the goals and objectives that will prevail for a promising future for our own, and serving the community stakeholders as a public servant is possible by hearing the voices of my constituency on education endeavors in the future and present.