

# 25<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats

## Candidate Endorsement Request (*School Board*)

Office Sought: School Board Position 3 Today's Date: June 15, 2019

### Campaign Information

Name of Campaign: Committee to Elect Amanda Cuthbert Campaign Manager: N/A

Campaign Address: 3605 25<sup>th</sup> St SE, Puyallup, WA 98374

Campaign Phone: 253.691.8810 Email: [cuthbertamanda@yahoo.com](mailto:cuthbertamanda@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.amandacuthbert.com](http://www.amandacuthbert.com)

Social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CuthbertPuyallup/>

Twitter: N/A

What is your win number? unsure

How much money do you intend to spend on this campaign? \$5000 for signs and mailers

How much in personal funds do you intend to spend? \$500- so far have paid for website, will pay postage on mailers and more if necessary.

How much have you raised so far? Awaiting endorsement decision from IAFF Local 726 who have offered signs, which would make up about \$3000 of needed funds. Small website donations have been made without an ask.

How many volunteers do you expect to have supporting your campaign? 8-10 regulars

How many volunteers have you recruited so far? 5

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Are you using union printers and/or sign shops to do your campaign printing?\_I will!

### Personal Information:

Full Name (as shown on ballot): Amanda Cuthbert

Address: 3605 25<sup>th</sup> St SE, Puyallup, Wa 98374

Years at this address: 3 next month Legislative District: 25 Precinct: 3

Years in the school district that you want to represent: 10

Do you have children who attend/attended school in your district? Yes, Andrew (9) attends Sunrise, formerly attended Pope. Christopher (3) will go to Sunrise in two years.

Do you have children who attend/attended school outside your district while living in the district? no

### Education (Please indicate highest level attained)

Degree (specify):\_Associates in Early Childhood Education (2018). Currently in Junior year towards Bachelors at UW for Early Care and Education (Grad plan to conclude Summer 2020).

School: Currently at UW. Associates from Rassmussen College. I was an Army brat so my early education was all over the country.

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### Previous Public Service

Office/Position Held: Treasurer Dates: Current

Nature of Organization: Sunrise Elementary PTA

Duties: Accounting

Office/Position Held: Board Secretary\_ Dates: \_current

Nature of Organization: \_Washington Childcare Centers Association (WCCA)

Duties: Agenda writing, taking minutes, editing Bylaws. Also- Board Member duties include advocacy work in Olympia with lobbyist, seated contributor on various workgroups with DCYF. Fundraising Committee Chair.

Office/Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

Office/Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Duties: \_\_\_\_\_

### Current Job Information

Employer: Redondo KinderCare/South Hill KinderCare (transfer effective 8/1/19) Title: Center Director

Supervisor: \_Tracy Willis- District Leader E-mail Address: \_twillis@klcorp.com

Work Phone: \_206.651.6207\_\_

### Major Civic Interests

Kindergarten readiness, equity in schools, early learning (funding of and legitimizing of); Civil rights pertaining to racial inequities and discrimination, reproductive rights, support of LGTBQ community; the Environment- education and action to reduce climate change and dependency on oil

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### Civic Clubs or Community Organizations You Have Been Involved With?

**Cub Scouts – Pack 524, Perinatal Collaborative of Puget Sounds, husband Shaun is a Central Pierce Fire Department Fire Fighter and Secretary of the Local 726**

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**Questionnaire**

*Please keep your answers brief.*

What do you feel you can offer in this position that your opponent(s) cannot offer?

I am the only candidate or seated board member who has a background in Early Childhood Education. Our schools are falling victim to the education gaps that starts with a major deficit in children being Kindergarten ready. I operate a center that has a maximum ratio of 1 teacher to 15 students who are school aged, yet our teachers have classrooms with 25-40 students per class and cannot possibly engage them all and help with their emotional needs- something often overlooked as a teacher's role in this day and age.

How would you propose to pay for new schools and infrastructure necessitated by residential development?

We cannot continue to milk the well we currently pull from- additional funding is needed. I have no problem testifying to our legislators next session on the right all American children have to a free public education k-12 and those creating the budgets for us need to see that we don't have the money needed to support this growth. We also need this coming levy to raise local taxes to meet the needs of our students.

Briefly, how would you construct policy to deal with the following concerns?

Inclusion of non-core content such as music and the arts, social and emotional learning, physical education, debate, health, etc.:

Educating the whole child is of the utmost importance. Not all children learn best in a lecture-style classroom. Many children require movement and inspiration to retain the information necessary to be successful in school. These programs are the foundation of what our children need to grow into healthy, well-rounded adults. The core content has not proven worth the elimination of these tried and true programs in advancing our children's scores.

Student and Staff Security:

We live in a very scary time. Investment in door barricading devices to prevent an active shooter from gaining access to classrooms will save lives- a desk turned over will not. And I argue that if we invest in early learning (birth through 5) more, we will see less social/emotional issues in our schools and have less violent folk posing a threat to our students and teachers.

Environmental stewardship (recycling programs, sustainable building practices, low carbon footprint policies):

Should environmental stewardship policies be included in the curriculum or should these policies only be undertaken by district staff thereby setting an example for the student body?

Why shouldn't these practices be included in the curriculum? We live in a very Republican area with a lot of folks who think environmental concerns are hogwash. We need to inform the next generation of their responsibility to the future of our Earth by doing their part at home.

Inequity in special education programs to reduce student achievement gaps:

More teachers, fewer children in a class size. More paraeducators, mental health specialists, active classroom solutions to support children with hyperactivity disorders.

What will you do to build strong working relationships between teachers, the school board, and the superintendent?

The current school board has made a mess of these relationships. I am embarrassed at the way they have treated the teachers and I would be honored to help bridge the gap in that relationship if elected. Starting with hiring a great superintendent- one with a known track record of dependability, great communication and progressiveness to get our district in a position to retain our teachers and give our district a strong unified system that benefits the education of our students and fair treatment of our teachers.

Do you support bringing in for-profit companies to work with our public school children in our public school facilities?

No- our district needs to hire professionals in the industry to root themselves in our schools to establish trust and build relationships. When our own teachers are leaving for better paying schools down the road, no one should be profiting from us.

What are your positions on the following:

Achievement gap

Something needs to be done now- there are too many children falling behind. These gaps produce children who do not have the resources or confidence to break the poverty cycle they come from- it is an issue that is effecting our poorest children because their parents are busy working to death to keep the family alive and cannot invest in their child's education. It is a community responsibility- we owe it to these children to fix.

Prioritization in budgeting

Teacher wages, smaller class sizes, support staff

Division of responsibility and power between boards and superintendent

Board needs to take ownership of the lack of success on the core standards and do right by our students. While a unified board and superintendent can be strong leaders, when one is not performing, the other should not follow boldly and deny reasonable expectations from teachers and parents. The board and superintendent are only as successful as their educational system.

School funding and other state issues

While 50% of the state's budget is going to our schools, there is simply not enough money to meet our needs. The only way around this is to raise taxes and fully fund our education system.

Policing policies in schools

How many semesters of civics should be required in K-12 education, and in what grade should civics education begin?

We teach civics in our preschool classroom (developmentally appropriate, of course) so all ages should be required to integrate civic education into their curriculum. No child is too young to hear about inequities, racial biases, gay parents, the many disabilities effecting members of our community, the voting system, etc. It should be regularly integrated into elementary classrooms throughout the year. Beyond that, there should be regular offerings in junior and senior high schools for course options. I am unsure of the specific courses required currently per year, so I cannot provide a specific number of how many semesters.

Do you believe these subjects should be included in the curriculum?

Yes, see answer above.

Sex Education: Yes !!!!!

If yes what topics should be included:

Abstinence only \_\_\_\_\_

Fact based pregnancy prevention \_\_\_\_\_

Safe sex practices \_\_\_\_\_

Information that is important for the LGBTQ+ community \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign language: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

How many years should be required for graduation? I believe it should be incorporated in grade school and offered as elective options after that. Second languages are best introduced in the early years (birth through 3) and are very difficult to learn fluency in the later years. While language is a great intro to cultural diversity, classes specifically about other cultures would be better for producing young adults who have fewer racial biases.

Nutrition and drug information: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes:

In what grade should this begin? Nutrition- beginning in early learning environments, and drug information/prevention when developmentally appropriate. Children need to have a basic understanding of anatomy before they can grasp the harm of drugs physically, and unless they've experienced drug abuse in their household, they may not grasp the emotional effects until later elementary grades

How many hours per semester should be dedicated to this? Unsure- I would need to see research on this topic to make an informed decision.

Climate science: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes:

In what grade should this begin? Again, we use developmentally appropriate curriculum on this topic in our Preschool program for three year old children, so no age is too young \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours per semester should be dedicated to this? unsure

Evolution science: Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes:

In what grade should this begin? When developmentally appropriate. Children need to have a basic scaffolding understanding of animal classes before evolution can really be grasped.

How many hours per semester should be dedicated to this? unsure

Other Concerns:

Do you favor allowing direct contact between military recruiters and students? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Explain: Do we allow other folks to recruit our children on our school grounds? A high school job fair is one thing. Being pulled into the office one on one to meet with a recruiter who promises you adventure, money and low risk is a danger to impressionable minds

In your opinion, should it be legal for teachers to go on strike? Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: They've won their right to Unionize and I support them fighting for fair wages and benefits.

With so many environmental impacts on youth health these days and the need for health education in schools what level of medical professional do you feel should be employed in each school building?

A full time nurse

\_\_\_\_\_ A part time nurse

\_\_\_\_\_ Lesser trained medical techs in each building full time with a nurse supervising several buildings

If selecting this option how many schools should the nurse supervise? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Medical technicians full time with no nurse supervision

\_\_\_\_\_ Part time medical techs

In making decisions should the school board give priority to: (please prioritize, 1 to 6):

The wishes of parents	5
The wishes of students	2
The wishes of a vocal minority	6
The recommendations of the teachers	1
The recommendations of the principal	4
The recommendations of district administration	3

Finally, any additional comments you would like to share:

It is the intent of the 25th District Democrats to support qualified Democrats seeking political office for both partisan and nonpartisan races. To that end we are looking for individuals who adhere to Democratic principles as demonstrated by Democratic Party activity, community activities, their reputation among Democrats, and statements they make supporting Democratic values and fellow Democrats. Endorsed candidates are discouraged from giving support in any partisan race to non-Democratic candidates. If an individual is running against another Democratic candidate(s), such endorsed candidate is encouraged to draw clear distinctions and differences with his/her opponent in a friendly, informational, and non-confrontational fashion. My signature below signifies my agreement with these principles and that I understand that the 25th District Democrats may withdraw its endorsement if I do not adhere to them.



Candidate Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: June 15, 2019

**Please save this form as a PDF** and return your completed questionnaire to [edwherde@gmail.com](mailto:edwherde@gmail.com)