



Statement by Terry Krassner Regarding her Candidacy for Pinellas School Board

January 11, 2010

LARGO – Terry Krassner filed her paperwork today with the Supervisor of Elections for the Pinellas County School Board District 2 seat and released this statement:

“Over the last several months I have spoken with many Pinellas County residents, parents and teachers, about the needs of our children and schools. Pinellas schools are facing difficult challenges including student safety, making sure more students graduate high school and an achievement gap that must close faster.

“As a parent, teacher and principal, I devoted my life to bringing young people the best possible educational opportunities. That is why, after thoughtful consideration with my husband Al and our four children, I have decided to run for the Pinellas County School Board.

“We need to reexamine and improve student assignment plans, busing plans and school starting times to maximize student safety.

“We must continue to create high school “centers of excellence” and more vocational and technical educational options.

“As a former principal, I support the Pinellas Education Foundation’s emphasis for more autonomy for all schools for site based decision making.

“We need a sharper focus on the big picture. Pinellas is a district with a \$1.5-billion annual budget, 17,000 employees and 105,000 students. The school board needs to set strategic priorities to help students, teachers and principals reach or exceed their performance goals.

“Education is the key to our community’s economic prosperity. The jobs of the future will depend on our strategic focus in today’s classrooms. We must teach the career tools our children will need to compete and prosper in the ever-changing economy of the 21st century.”

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Krassner, 58, is a third generation Pinellas County resident and a graduate of Northeast High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree in education from the University of South Florida and Master's Degree in educational leadership from Nova Southeastern University. Over Krassner's 35-year education career, she was a teacher at Lynch Elementary, Pinellas Park Middle School and Morgan Fitzgerald Middle School. She served as the Assistant Principal of Starkey Elementary School and Principal of Westgate Elementary School where she retired in 2008. Krassner lives in Largo with her husband Al Bonnette. Their three children attend Osceola Middle School, Osceola Fundamental High School and Boca Ciega High School's Early College program at St. Petersburg College. Krassner also has one grown son from a previous marriage who is a graduate of St. Petersburg High School's International Baccalaureate Program. Krassner's father, Lee Benjamin, previously served on the Pinellas County School Board from 1990 – 2004.

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Political advertisement paid for and approved by Terry Krassner for School Board,
District 2