

D38 (Cont. from page 1) among all members of the elementary School in 1988. He was known for his ability to foster teamwork and teachers to develop the district's performance standards and the guiding principles. He fostered

good relationships between the community and schools and frequently visited schools and attended sports and arts events. Avis Barbour Cook was an elementary teacher in the years 1975-2002. She taught many enrichment classes, Great Books, art, and science. She pioneered gifted and talented education, sponsored family geography nights, and was recognized by the National Geographic Society. Cook was instrumental in bringing the Imagination Celebration to District 38 and sponsored theatrical and musical performances for elementary school children. Teachers with whom she worked found her to be supportive, inspiring, and fun. One of her third-graders once said, "Being in Mrs. Cook's class is just like going to Mr. Wizard!"

Dr. Jeffery Ferguson Dr. Jeffery Ferguson served on the Board of Education from 1987 to 2003 and from 2009 to 2013. He served as board president for 10 years during that time. His focus was always on the students and what was best for them. He was twice awarded the McGuffey Award by the Colorado Association of School Boards for committed and passionate service.

Ferguson's time on the school board included periods of rapid growth when three new elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school were built. During this time the district adopted guidelines to work with a charter academy, and four ballot issues were passed for funds to build Prairie Winds Elementary and Creekside Middle School.

During his tenure from 2009 to 2013, the district faced severe funding shortages. Ferguson fought to keep the cuts from directly impacting the students and teachers whenever possible.

Ferguson stresses that it's imperative not to lose touch with the heritage of the district, because the tradition of excellence "didn't just happen. It's the result of a lot of people in the trenches that worked to make it exceptional".

Dr. Genevieve Garcia

Dr. Genevieve Garcia came to the district as a kindergarten teacher in 1972. At that time there was no established curriculum for kindergarten, and she developed a curriculum including writing and math. She also organized testing and screening for kindergarten students. She created a monthly story hour for preschool children so that they would be more comfortable entering school.

She taught for 13

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