



## **Steven Auslander**

### **Governing Board Member**

Like many parents, I became particularly interested in our school district when my children enrolled here. My wife and I moved to the Tanque Verde community in 1993, and before coming to Tucson, I'd lived in Massachusetts and Florida following my high school years in Caracas, Venezuela. I met Nancy in 1980 at the U of A, we got married in 1982 and we have two daughters.

I've worked in and around the media and communications business. My company, Enterprise Media operates specialty TV channels and provides media production services. Prior to opening my business, I worked for AlphaGraphics in training, marketing and international operations capacities and traveled all over the US and much of the world in the process. After that, I set up the US office of a software business operated by the company that ultimately became the parent company of AlphaGraphics, a UK-based firm called Pindar.

Growing up, my dad was on the board of the school I attended in Caracas and in that respect I'm following in his footsteps. Being on our school district's governing board has given me insight into the way the education business is run, the way instruction is developed and the many different ways students benefit from their time in school. It's an absorbing and ultimately rewarding experience, and one which I'd recommend to anyone interested in what can occasionally become an all-consuming endeavor.

Since beginning my term in January, 2007, I've worked with thoughtful and dedicated board members whose passion for getting things right has always made me proud to serve with them. One of the things I've come to understand about our role is that while we have oversight of the machinery, we rely on professionals to operate the controls. Most of the time, this is a fine arrangement. When it goes wrong, it is frustrating beyond description because the stakes are so high. When it goes right, though, it's gratifying to lean on the good work of teachers, administrators, students and parents for the support that provides.

I'd have to say that being involved with the Tanque Verde Unified School District has been anything but what I expected and much of what I'd hoped it would be when I threw my hat into the ring. I've had opportunities to make some contributions along the way, and have had the distinct privilege of relying on skills graciously provided by other volunteers.

I walk through our schools and feel a proprietary pride in them. My morning coffee is made sweeter by stories of student successes in the paper and it's been genuinely educational to see things from what has become a backstage perspective on the operation of the school district. Through thick and thin, it's a pleasure to serve.