

Do you currently hold other public office?

Yes ___ No

If yes, list office: _____

Do you have any affiliations with the Albuquerque Public Schools? Yes No ___

If yes, what are your affiliations? I substitute teach

Are you available to attend Board meetings the first and third Wednesday nights of the month at 5:00 p.m.? Yes No ___

Additionally, there are four board committees that meet twice a month at 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. Are you available to attend committee meetings? Yes No ___

If no, please explain why: _____

Periodically, the Board must meet during daytime hours for Board meetings, budget hearings, and luncheons. Are you available during daytime hours for these activities?

Yes No ___

If no, please explain why: _____

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, the Board requires approximately ten hours a week in reading, researching, miscellaneous meetings, school visits, telephone calls, and e-mail correspondence. Can your schedule accommodate the extra time involved in serving as a member of the Board of Education? Yes No ___

Experience

Answers should be brief and concise.

1. Why do you want to be a board member for Albuquerque Public Schools?

As the mother of two APS graduates, and as a Sandia High graduate myself, I know the power of a quality public education. As the former State PTA President, I know how hard it is to balance running a working class family and a small business, all while trying to advocate for all our students. As a substitute teacher, I know first-hand the struggles faced by teachers, students and administrators.

I'm running for School Board because of the students. It's time to prioritize creating an environment in which our students leave the system fully prepared to contribute to society, enter the workforce, and to move on to college.

That means providing sufficient funding for an equitable education for all students, smaller class sizes, giving teachers the freedom to be creative, closing the achievement gap, providing the tools and innovation necessary for students to learn, and lowering administrative costs. I'm running for school board because I see clear opportunities to achieve such a vision--one where teachers,

administrators, parents, and students work together to improve the quality of education in the district.

2. What is your interest in education?

My interest in education is to help create an environment in which our students leave the system fully prepared to contribute to society, enter the workforce, and to move on to college. Since my children were born I have been a strong parent engagement / involvement advocate in order for all students to be successful.

3. How would you support the mission of the district?

Partnerships are key! I would continue to support mission as stated that it is a collaborative effort for student success. I have a direct pipeline to the community through PTA and I am involved in several other associations that their main mission is education. I will always advocate for what is best for our children. I believe that listening, assessing and actively striving for excellence for all children the key to their success.

4. What is your past and current involvement with Albuquerque Public Schools?

I am a substitute teacher.

5. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of Albuquerque Public Schools?

The goals of APS are part of the strengths. Academic Achievement through all programs like AVID, the LPN Program, and so many more are a great pride for the district. Community input on programs, policy, and follow through are areas of strength that APS has. Passing the Parent Family Engagement Policy was a monumental strength as it keeps the public trust.

The size of the school district is a weakness in that it makes it hard to monitor all the goings on in each of the areas. With that comes the reality are that there is so much negativity about funds and how they are distributed. There is room for improvement in the area of showing how the funding occurs and why they are used.

6. What is the role of the Board of Education?

Each member represents and is the voice of not only their own district but for all students in APS. The role of the board is to work together in order to create policy for the school district keeping the best interest of our students in mind. The school board oversees and approves a \$1.3 billion budget, this in itself is a major undertaking. I have had some experience on a smaller scale with finances as the president 2007-2009 of New Mexico PTA we had to work with over 100 units 6500 members overseeing and approving budgets. The board also has the authority to hire the superintendent. They are the fiduciary for our customers to ensure that leadership is continuing to guide the entire district.

7. What is the role of individual board members?

The role of each individual is to bring a unique perspective to what is the tough process of determining what the best avenues are for student success. Each individual should be ready and able to work with the diverse group of members. They are the face & voice of the community and should be able to go out and solicit input from all concerned.

8. What should be the relationship between the superintendent and Board of Education?

They should work side by side having the best interest students as the common goal. There should always be open honest communication and no hidden agendas.

9. What unique qualities would you bring to the Board of Education?

Passion, Advocacy and Character

For the past twenty-one years, I have witnessed first-hand, both in and out of the classroom, the intricacies of delivering a free, quality public education to the students of APS:

As a parent, I understand the passion it takes to make common sense decisions to improve the education system for all students as if they were my own children.

As an active participant in PTA, first at the local school level, then the state, and National PTA levels, I advocate for all children to be well educated, healthy, and successful.

As a Substitute teacher I see the struggles that teachers deal with on a daily basis. That is, lack of proper necessities (food, clothing, familiar support) for students before they walk in the school doors. Teachers are dealing with large class sizes, student disruptions, disrespect and lack of administrative support.

10. Other school/community volunteer activities related to the community:

Current service includes:

Co-Founder Las Mujeres 1982- Present / President

President UNM Parent Association

Latino / Hispano Education Improvement Task Force

National Parent Teacher Association Convention Elections Committee

PEAPS Partners in Education & Advocates for Public Schools

President North Valley Education Enhancement Association

Previous Services Includes:

National PTA Diversity Committee

NM PTA State President

NM PTA Board of Directors

NM Truancy Task Force

NM School Bus Safety Task Force

NM Youth Alcohol Abuse Task Force

Safe Teen NM BOD 2007-2009

NM Reads

11. What do you think is the best way for the district to:

- a. Improve academic achievement and close the achievement gap?

Investing more in early childhood education is key. The earlier the start the better the outcome for our children. Bring back relevant classes and keep up with new technology to keep the students interest.

- b. Maintain financial accountability and still support student achievement, family and community engagement and a safe school environment?

If you invest more on the necessities instead of placing bandages. Example old buildings that need new HVAC should be priority. Quit fixing the leak eliminate it!

All the money in the world will not help if we do not have an open, collaborative effort from all. Make the families and communities allies in helping with the entire process of educating our future.

- c. Make a safe and supportive climate for learning and working that maximizes student achievement?

Customer service is key. When the community walks in the door it should be a warm welcoming environment regardless of why you are there in the first place. Too many times the front office is stressed or does not speak the language...Just a smile and hello are what will defuse a difficult situation or ease the mind of the guest. Staff from the custodian, cafeteria workers, teachers, support staff all the way up to administration should work together.

- d. Engage families and enhance partnerships in the community to maximize student achievement?

Recognizing that education begins at home and parents/families are the students first teachers we should be helping hone those skills by offering training / seminars on what our children need before they leave the house to be ready to learn and be successful.

By my signature, I affirm that I meet all requirements to become a member of the Board of Education.

