



**Albuquerque Public Schools
Questionnaire for Board of Education Candidates**

The Board of Education is an elected body created according to the laws of the state of New Mexico to serve as the governing board of the school district for the purpose of organizing, maintaining, and locating schools and for providing educational opportunities and services for all citizens residing within the school district.

Candidates are requested to return each questionnaire to the Board Services Office, by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 19, 2008. Mailed questionnaires must be received by Thursday, December 18. Questionnaires may be faxed to 872-8864. Please call the Board Services Office at 880-3740 to confirm fax arrivals, or for other information.

Personal Information

Name: Candido Arturo Archuleta, Jr.



Length of Residency in School District: I was born and raised in the district and have lived in the same neighborhood for nearly my entire life. I have lived approximately 29 of my 33 years in the district and the only time spent living outside of it were for college & graduate school. My mother was also born and raised in the same neighborhood and in total my family, including my grandparents have resided in my neighborhood for nearly 60 years.



Occupation: Community Development Planner

Employer: Self-employed



Do you currently hold other public office?

Yes ___ No X___

If yes, list office: _____

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

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

Experience

Answers should be brief and concise.

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

I'm interested in serving on the Board of Education because as a parent of young children I'm personally vested in ensuring that our public schools provide quality education and safe learning environments for our students.

1. What is your interest in education?

Quality public education is a fundamental right and is one of the most important foundations of for a healthy society. Quality education leads to critical thinkers that actively participate in civic engagement and is key to establishing and maintaining diverse economic development opportunities for our region, our state and our nation.

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

I would support the mission of the district by utilizing my education, knowledge and skills to develop and promote sound policies for ensuring APS provides quality education to students and is efficient and effective in maintaining and operating the school district. As well, I would constantly continue to educate myself on both issues facing the district and local and national trends for improving educational quality.

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

I attended APS from Kindergarten through High School and graduated in 1995. I have one son who is in kindergarten in APS. I have been actively involved in his educational development and am regularly present in his classroom to assist in whatever way possible. I am active on the PTA and participate in fundraising for the school. I have donated and will continue to donate free deejay services for activities and dances at both my child's school and at schools where my wife is a social worker.

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

The believe that the strengths of APS are the students, educators, administrators and all of the support staff and ancillary service providers in the schools. I believe the biggest weakness is the complexity of the bureaucracy in APS.

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

The role of the Board of Education is to develop policies and procedures for: providing quality education to our children; maintaining and operating our public schools; and holding the APS administration accountable to our children, families and community.

6. What is the role of individual board members?

The role of individual board members is to work collectively with administrators, educators, and educational support staff at all levels in the development and promotion of sound policies for consideration and passage by the entire Board of Education. It is the duty of every individual member of the board to be educated about issues facing the district, and about local and national developments in improving the quality of public education.

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

The Board of Education should strive to have a positive and professional working relationship with the superintendent. The superintendent is tasked with carrying out board policy and it is the duty of the Board to ensure that their policies are being administered correctly. The Board must ensure to remain independent of the superintendent and top-level administration so that it may provide fair and honest critique and evaluation of the superintendent's performance.

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

As a community development planner I would bring my skills in problem solving, policy development and legislative advocacy. As a parent I would bring my passion, drive and vision for our children's future.

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

In addition to being involved in the PTA at my son's school I am actively involved in his classroom activities whenever I can be of assistance. I regularly accompany his class on both bus and walking field trips as a chaperone. I willingly provide free deejay services for school events and for events held by non-profit organizations.

10. What are your thoughts about:

- a. No Child Left Behind – Comprehensive legislation such as No Child Left Behind is very complex for any public school or public school system to implement. While legislation aimed at improving the quality of our nation's public education system is fundamentally necessary it is important that legislation provides the necessary resources for its proper implementation and administration. Unfunded mandates for educational programming requirements only add to the difficulty public schools have in providing quality education for our children. Also measuring progress through quantitative methods such as standardized testing is a valuable tool in assessing where public schools are at, however it must never be the end all measure for determining the quality of public education. Pressures to meet standardized testing benchmarks through overly standardized curriculum can stifle an educator's ability to develop creative ways of engaging students in the learning process. Also overly standardized curriculum is often time to rigid to be effective when dealing with student populations that are socio-economical and cultural diverse.
- b. Closing the achievement gap – It is important that we strive to reach high levels of educational attainment and high graduation rates district wide, regionally and throughout our state and nation. Increasing the quality of education for every student in public school will lead to a more critical thinking and civically engaged society. Quality Education leads to healthy economies and the better the educational foundation we provide all our children the more successful they will be in life. In providing quality education it is important we recognize and understand the impacts that socio-economic disadvantages have had on numerous populations within our society. It is therefore important that we are mindful of these impacts when developing curriculum and programs targeted at closing the achievement gap.
- c. Parental involvement and community engagement – I believe that parental involvement and community engagement play a critical role in the success of our public education system. It is because of this belief that I, as a parent, am running for the Board of Education. We must always ensure that our public school system welcomes and encourages parent, family and community engagement at all levels.

