



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 their questionnaire to the Board Services Office, by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 7, 2011. Mailed questionnaires must be received by Friday, January 7, 2011. Address to: Board Services Office, 2011 Board Election, APS Administration Building, 6400 Uptown Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 88110. Questionnaires may also be faxed to 880-2575 by the deadline above. Please call the Board Services Office at 880-3737 to confirm fax arrivals, or for other information.

Personal Information

Name:

Charles Edward MacQuigg

[REDACTED]

Length of Residency in School District:

I was born here in Albuquerque and attended APS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I can be emailed through my "profile" on my blog, Diogenes' Six, <http://ched-macquigg.blogspot.com/>

Occupation: retired APS teacher

Employer: na

Business Telephone: na

Business Address: na

Do you currently hold other public office? No

Do you have any affiliations with the Albuquerque Public Schools?

I am retired from the APS

Are you available to attend Board meetings the first and third Wednesday nights of the month at 5 p.m.? Yes

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

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

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

Experience

Answers should be brief and concise.

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

a. I want to improve the educational experience for students and staff. I want to encourage consideration for new and more effective education models.

b. I want to create meaningful standards of conduct and competence. More importantly, I want to create real accountability to those standards.

c. I want to create transparency in the administration of public education that is limited only by the law.

d. I want to give all stakeholders a seat at the table where decisions are made.

2. What is your interest in education?

I believe that education is the most important function of government.

I believe a good education is a birthright of all children. It is their path toward happy, productive and useful lives.

I see education as the only sure solution to the world's problems.

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

I would begin by revisiting the mission with all stakeholders to make sure it still meets their needs and expectations. I would encourage setting goals that are consistent with the mission, and then establishing the objectives that enable the reaching of those goals.

At that point, policies, procedures and regulations can be crafted that support the completion of the objectives.

Finally, there needs to be real and honest accountability to meaningful standards of conduct and competence for students and employees. I would create a system under which the least powerful stakeholder can file a legitimate complaint against the most powerful administrator or board member, and be guaranteed due process of their complaint. The system would be impartial and powerful enough to hold the most powerful administrator or board member accountable, even against their will.

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

I retired from APS after 25 years of teaching. Currently, I am an advocate for the reforms necessary to create an educationally efficient environment for students and teachers.

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

APS' greatest strength is its teaching staff. Among them, they share some 100,000 years of teaching experience.

APS' greatest weakness is its failure to give teachers, and other stakeholders, a seat at the table where decisions are made.

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

The role of the Board is, I think, widely misunderstood. The role of the board is limited to actions taken by the board as a whole and is limited to three main roles; the board provides overall direction for the district, hires the Superintendent, and approves the budget.

I regard the board as executive oversight over the administration of public power and resources. The administration is not directly accountable to the people but is accountable to the school board and through it, to the people.

7. What is the role of individual board members?

Board members are prohibited from acting, except as members of a voting board.

Individually, they should represent stakeholders, be available to their constituents to direct them to appropriate District resources, and advocates of their positions, and monitor administrative compliance with school board policies.

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

The Superintendent is accountable to the board. The board should make a reasonable effort to support the Superintendent as s/he tries to reach the objectives that have been established. The board must be prepared to remove and replace any Superintendent who cannot, or will not, consistently meet objectives.

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

Unique among my qualities is my willingness to offer stakeholders meaningful participation in decision making that affects their interests; a seat at the table where decisions are made.. Also unique among candidates, my commitment to the transparency, limited only by an ethical interpretation of the law, will enable real accountability.

I am unique among candidates in my willingness to hold myself truly accountable as a role model.

The APS Student Standards of Conduct, the Pillars of Character Counts! are a nationally recognized, accepted and respected code of ethical conduct, According to the Student Behavior Handbook, they are the APS Student Standard of Conduct.

I believe many of the problems we are experiencing stem from the fact that neither the board nor the administration has given character education the support it warrants.

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

I write a blog; Diogenes' six, <http://ched-macquigg.blogspot.com/>, and am active in state politics.

11. What are your thoughts about:

a. No Child Left Behind

NCLB is the single worst thing that has happened in education. It compels standardization of the responses of individuals to our efforts to educate them.

“Cemetery seating” as a model for education assumes that you can take thirty minds with nothing in common but their age, and then expect them to think in unison for twelve years.

It is the same thing, and is as effective as, trying to herd kittens.

b. Closing the achievement gap

All achievement gaps are individual. Regardless of a student's ethnicity, socio-economic status, or any other of the "differences" used to group students, the gap is between where that child is educationally, and where they could be.

The answer to closing the gaps is to provide children the opportunity to learn individually according to their skill and interests.

b. Parental involvement and community engagement

It is hard to imagine a more important component to education than parental and community involvement. It is as hard to imagine one over which we have less control. There simply is no way a school board or school system can make parents be better parents.

The best we can do, is to offer parents who are looking for help, all of the help and support we can offer. We cannot compel good parenting.

In terms of creating the institution, it needs to be designed to accommodate the worst case scenario, students suffering from bad parenting including no parenting at all.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]