Albuquerque Public Schools
2015 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 5:00 p.m., on Monday, January 5, 2015. Mailed questionnaires must be received by Monday, January 5, 2015. Address to: Board of Education Services Office, 2015 Board Election, Alice and Bruce King Educational Complex, P.O. Box 25704, Albuquerque, N.M.87125-0704. Questionnaires also may be faxed to 880-2575 by the deadline above. Please call the Board of Education Services Office at 880-3729 to confirm fax arrivals, or for other information.

Personal Information
[Please Print, Type or Use Digital Form]

Name: MADELYN A JONES
First Middle Last

Residence Address:

Length of Residency in School District:

(Check Preferred)
[ ] Home Telephone: [ ] Office: [ ] Cell

Fax Number: Primary Email address:

Occupation: Business Owner

Employer:

Business Address: 1620 ALAMEDA NW ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87114

Business Telephone: 505-840-3736
Do you currently hold other public office?  
Yes ___ No X  
If yes, list office:  

Do you have any affiliations with the Albuquerque Public Schools? Yes ___ No X  
If yes, what are your affiliations?  

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

Additionally, there are five board committees that mostly meet once a month at 7:30 a.m. or 5:00 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 20-25 hours a week in reading, researching, miscellaneous meetings, school visits, telephone calls, and e-mail correspondence; some board members spend more time than that. Can your schedule accommodate the extra time involved in serving as a member of the Board of Education?  
Yes X No ___
1. Why do you want to be a board member for Albuquerque Public Schools?

Since the beginning of this country, we have been committed to everyone being educated. From the King of England that by law, made every colonist responsible for educating their children at home to read, write and cipher, as it was called then, to the one room school house as this country expanded. This country became a world leader because of public education. I am running for the Board because I believe we have lost our way. Even the children that have graduated and received a scholarship find themselves in remedial classes in college. I also believe that we are losing local control over education. "No child left behind", "Race to the top", "Common Core" are federal programs dictating to everyone leaving very little room for local control. I have been a business owner for the past 40 years. I can bring to the Board a different voice. I have knowledge, experiences and a vision that I believe can help to stop this downhill spiral.

2. What is your interest in education?

Education is the key to everything. It can take a person out of poverty. It gives us better leadership in both government and private sector. It is the future. Early childhood development, parent involvement, shortage of teachers and the loss of local control are my top interests.

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

I would work together with the other Board members. I would communicate with the people of my District to make sure they knew what the mission was all about and gain support for the mission.

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

Currently my business sponsors a fundraiser for the drama students at Cibola High School. I hire part time high school students in my business. In the past, I was the representative for Harrison Middle School on the South Area Advisory Council while my children attended there. As the President of the South Valley Chamber of Commerce, we provided scholarship money for qualified students at Rio Grande High School. This was prior to the lottery scholarship program. My four children all attended APS Schools.

5. What do you consider to be the strength and weakness of Albuquerque Public Schools?

The quality and commitment of the teachers is impressive. As to its weakness, I am concerned about the superintendent problems we have been having.

6. What do you consider the role of the Board of Education?

APS is at its roots a business. It has physical buildings, land, other assets, a wide range of employees, and a large budget. It has a duty to have a business plan to handle that kind of investment. The return to shareholders is a well-educated student to take their place in society.

7. What do you consider the role of individual board members?

Boards have certain duties that are very defined. Because school funding comes from taxpayers and we are elected by our Districts, there is an additional responsibility to maintain a relationship with the community and the legislative members serving in Santa Fe from our districts.
8. What should be the relationship between the superintendent and Board of Education?

The Board, as one of its duties, hires the Superintendent as any board would hire a CEO. It expects the CEO to carry out the goals that it has set for the organization. It oversees the Superintendent but doesn’t micro manage. However if the goals are not being met, the board has the responsibility to review the ability of the Superintendent to do what he or she was hired to do.

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

Because I have started and grown a business for the past 40 years, I would bring to the board a different perspective. As a business owner, I have to be aware of changes happening in my business. New technologies, new styles, differences in customers as well as employees, and new regulations are just a few of the things we face everyday. If we aren’t ahead in our thinking, we lose customers. Marketing is another area that is changing rapidly. In all of this, we have to get the most out of resources or we can’t pay our bills or grow our business. Solving problems is a daily thing when you own a business. As they say, practice makes perfect. Maybe having a slightly different perspective in the room when confronting problems could help. In addition, I work with people every single day. Customers, suppliers, deliverymen, repairmen just to name a few, and have done it for 40 years. I believe I could be an asset to the board. My time is more flexible now that my children are working in the business. I want to give back to the community that has made my business successful.

10. What school or community volunteer activities have you participated in related to the community?

I was a Cub Scout den mother. I served on the board of the Cub Scouts and then as the head of the den mothers responsible for their training.

South Area Advisory Council for Harrison Middle School

Co-founder of parent group for Carrie Tingley Children’s Hospital

Served on the Board of South Valley Chamber of Commerce

Served as President of South Valley Chamber of Commerce for two terms

Served on the N.M. Statewide Health Coordinating Council

Served on the advisory council of the South Valley TVI Campus, now the CNM Campus.

Served on an" Illiteracy in New Mexico” committee hosted by Congresswoman Heather Wilson

11. How do you plan to work with constituents about district initiatives?

Contact with constituents is at the top of my list. As the President of South Valley Chamber of Commerce, I learned that one on one contact is imperative. If elected I would start that process immediately using all resources available to me. After the initial contact, I will maintain a phone number dedicated for contact with me. I will hold a town hall periodically, to listen to problems, ideas and updating what the board is doing.
12. What letter grade would you give to the current Board of Education and the district?

I do not have any information regarding what the goals are that were set by the board. As a member of the public, my perception is that the state has set goals and requirements. That does bother me as well as the federal programs such as "No child left behind" "Race to the top" and "Common core". It seems as if the board has had very little control over education in APS. So it seems unfair to grade the board. However as regarding the hiring of Superintendents, we have had problems so I give that a C.

13. What do you think is the best way for the district to:
   a. Improve academic achievement and close the achievement gap?

Identify in pre-K those children who are behind in reading skills and immediately start a tutoring program to bring them up as soon as possible. That applies to Kindergarten and First Grade as well. Reading skills are the key to everything in education. Start early and they will be ready for third grade right on time.

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

Support an on-going review of all activities that are part of the budget for effectiveness. New information, new technology are happening all the time and can contribute to cost savings.

c. Make a safe and supportive climate for learning and working that maximizes Student Achievement?

The principal is the key to the climate in a school. A happy staff means happy children and happy volunteers. Problems must be handled immediately and resolved as quickly as possible. The principals need to know they are supported and can get help when needed.

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

In this day and time, you first need to recognize the diversity of a schools population. One size does not fit all. A lesson I learned in Cub Scouts where parent participation was imperative. Consider divorced parents, grandparents as guardians, working parents, parent in jail, language barriers, time constraints, and varying economic levels. Solving each of these situations can be done and the result is an engaged parent who believes you understand them and gets involved.

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

[Signature]
Candidate Signature

[Date]
Date