



**Albuquerque Public Schools
2017 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 of Education Services Office, by 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

- Mailed questionnaires must be received by Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Address to: Board of Education Services Office, 2017 Board Election, Alice and Bruce King Educational Complex, P.O. Box 25704, Albuquerque, N.M. 87125-0704.
- Questionnaires 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.
- Questionnaires may be emailed to the Board Services Office at boarded@aps.edu.

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

Name: Melissa A. Finch
First Middle Last

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residency in School District: 16

(Check Preferred)

Home Telephone: _____ Office: _____ [REDACTED]

Fax Number: _____ [REDACTED]

Occupation: Compliance Inspector

Employer: Pueblo of Isleta

[REDACTED]

Business Telephone: _____

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? _____

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

Additionally, there are five board committees that mostly meet once a month at 7:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 4:30 p.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 20-25 hours a week in reading, researching, miscellaneous meetings, school visits, telephone calls, and e-mail correspondence; many board members spend much more time than that. 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?

I believe in the importance of quality public education. I have 3 children enrolled in APS. They attended Inez Elementary and currently attend Grant Middle School and Sandia High School. I have a vested interest in seeing APS strive to be the best. I believe every child should have the best opportunity to achieve a quality education in a safe and nurturing environment.

2. What is your interest in education?

Education is important. Every child should receive a quality education regardless of their background, race or socioeconomic status. As a parent, I see the effects of some of these circumstances. I see the hard work many students and parents invest in their future. I have had the privileged of meeting and working with many skilled teachers. I see how hard they work to provide a quality education.

3. In what ways, will you support the mission and vision of the district?

As a board member, I would:

- **Work with the superintendent and staff.**
- **Create partnership with families and community.**
- **Ensure student success.**
- **Hold ourselves accountable to fulfil our obligation to students, teachers, staff and community.**

4. How will you work with the superintendent?

The superintendent is the person the school board has entrusted to lead the school district. As board members, it is our duty to do our due diligence to make sure we have the right person in that position. Currently, we have Ms. Reedy and I believe she has the best interest of students and teachers in mind. I would like to keep an

open dialogue and trust that she will make informed decisions and be transparent with the school board.

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

My children are the main reason for my involvement with APS. I am the parent you will see at Parent Teacher Conferences or any opportunity to engage with teachers. I am at various school events both academic and athletic supporting my children and friends.

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

The relationship between the superintendent and the Board of Education should be a respected collaboration.

7. What qualities and skills would you bring to the Board of Education?

Possess excellent communication skills-patience to listen and understand. Make informed decisions, do not act in haste. Desire to help. Ability to work with diverse groups.

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

Team mom for basketball, baseball, football and volleyball for 5 years.

Fundraising coordinator and communication liaison for volleyball.

Dance prop assistant.

9. How do you plan to work with constituents?

Encourage constituents to know they have an active part in the School District regardless of current, former or no students at all. Their tax dollars benefit the district and allowing open meetings to share their interest will represent our good faith in being transparent.

10. What do you see as opportunities and challenges to the district?

APS can be the flagship district in the state by utilizing and building on the strengths and skills of its diverse population in the district.

Challenges to the district is the budget, teacher retention and recruitment, excessive testing and test-base accountability measures.

11. What do you think is the best way for the district to accomplish the three academic goals?

- a. **Early learning** – Early learning begins with expecting parents, is nurtured as children develop language and number skills in elementary school, and grows with students as they mature in supportive classrooms becoming adept at using these skills in a variety of contexts.

Provide parents with resources to become more involved in their children's education. Encourage active participation. Example, eliminate or reduce the fee for background checks to make it easier for parents to get involved.

- b. **College and Career Readiness** – Students acquire skills which support formal and informal life-long learning to adapt and remain productive through changing economic and job market landscapes. All students will be prepared for post-secondary opportunities (college and/or career) without the need for remediation.

Provide classes/programs so students may acquire skills to help them in their career choices. Career options - i.e. arts, technology, academic, business, skilled crafts. Involve alumni to return as speakers, collaborate with colleges, universities and businesses.

- c. **Developing the Whole Child** – APS will ensure each child is safe, engaged, challenged and supported through programs and practices focused on removing social, emotional and physical barriers to learning and increased health literacy.
- Safe and welcoming environment
 - Whole Child includes... physical, mental, emotional, social, intellectual
 - Remove barriers to learning
 - Discover and develop individual gifts and talents
 - Use skills to better the community

Developing the Whole Child will be accomplished by ensuring that the child has a good foundation as an Early Learner and builds on that foundation through elementary and secondary levels. By providing the district with resources to remove barriers to create a safe environment, removing barriers to learning helping them to explore and develop their talents to provide a better community.

12. If elected, how will you work with the current board?

I will respect my colleagues and listen to their point of view. I will have open dialogue with the members, collaborate with them to meet the mission and goals of Albuquerque Public Schools.

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

Melissa A. Finch

1/2/2017

Candidate Signature

Date