



Business Telephone: [REDACTED]

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. and special board meetings as needed? Yes X 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 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; 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 X No \_\_\_

## **Experience**

Answers should be brief and concise.

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

I have 3 kids who attend APS. Parents delegate the authority to educate their children to the public schools and taxpayers fund them. As a parent and taxpayer, I will hold the school district responsible for wise use of funding to produce a quality education for our children. Holding the school district accountable will result in better education rankings for the district and the entire state.

### **2. What is your interest in education?**

I want my own children to be prepared to fully participate in society when they graduate, but I am also interested in the success of all children in our community. When I see that our state is consistently ranked 49th out of 50 states for education and our school district is contributing to the problem, I have to take action.

Our kids are not learning to be critical thinkers. The district keeps asking for more and more tax money and we also pass bond measures every time they are presented. More money is not solving this problem because the money is not going to the classroom. Teachers are blamed for the poor results, but they don't have the support and resources they need to be successful. It is time for moms and dads to stand with their children's teachers. Our nation offers advantages that are not available to everyone and our children must have the skills and education to capitalize on these advantages.

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

The missing piece from the mission statement is "partnership with families." Student success comes from both the home and the school. Our schools need to engage our families. It is important to strengthen the relationship between families and the schools. Parents should not be disconnected from their children's education. They should be involved in decision making concerning their children's education.

### **4. How will you work with the superintendent?**

My goal is to improve the educational product. As board members, it is our responsibility to set expectations for the superintendent and a direction for the district. The superintendent

works for the board, so I expect her to follow through with the board's plan. Metrics that indicate success will be clearly established and I will carefully consider input from the superintendent and my constituency when making decisions.

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

I am a member of the Jimmy Carter PTO and participate in the Instructional Council. My kids currently attend Jimmy Carter and Atrisco Heritage Academy. My husband graduated from Valley.

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

The board is responsible to the students and their families for the educational product. The board shapes district policies and the superintendent directs the implementation of the policies for the staff. The superintendent works for the board, so it must clearly communicate expectations to the superintendent and determine whether those expectations are being met. It must also take appropriate action if expectations aren't being met. School boards answer to parents, taxpayers, legislators, and education departments. Superintendent's answer to school boards.

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

I bring a perspective is rarely represented on the board because I am a mom of students currently attending APS. I understand the struggles of the students and their teachers because I witness the results of the schools on a daily basis with my own kids.

I currently work in accounting and I have a master's degree in business and a bachelor's degree in engineering. So, I am a problem solver that understands finance and budgeting. At work, we faced a huge increase in medical insurance premiums with our current carrier. I proposed a different plan structure with a different carrier which cost about \$30,000 less. Employees benefitted from both lower premiums and a company contribution to their health savings accounts. I will bring critical thinking and problem solving skills necessary to solve the district's problems.

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

I consider my highest job to be a mom. I am a band parent, and participated in cub scouts, basketball, school orchestra and Albuquerque Youth Symphony with my kids. I volunteer as a Children's Leader with BSF International. I led student groups at my church, Sagebrush, in the past. I have been on a mission trip to Brazil and sent my oldest son on a mission trip to Jamaica.

**9. How do you plan to work with constituents?**

My constituents are always welcome to email me or connect with me on social media. It is important to me to attend school events and to be visible in the community. When I am elected, I will attend PTO/PTA and Instructional Council meetings at my district schools. We will infuse parental input into the Instructional Councils by requiring a certain number of parents to attend.

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

Our district faces some of the worst graduation rates in the state and our teachers are demoralized by the evaluation process. Teachers are being held accountable for standardized test scores while not being given what they need to succeed. However, our teachers are committed to our children. They want to be part of the team that develops a strategy to improve educational outcomes and then realize the success.

Another challenge our district faces is impoverished thinking. Many use economic status as an excuse, but we can't let our current circumstances limit our future. I was raised by a single mom who put herself through college after her divorce. It was clear to me the power that education had in changing circumstances. I made the decision to pursue my goals and not let circumstances define me. That is what I am bringing into this district. We have an opportunity to break the cycle of impoverished thinking by showing our children that they can succeed no matter their family circumstances.

**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.**

There is nothing better for childhood development than a mother and a father. Involving parents in the education process is the most important thing a school can do. Have you seen a child's face light up when they bring their parents into their classroom? Parental involvement is a major predictor of student success so schools should be the center of family life instead of just a place for children. Incorporating the family into the school strengthens the family unit and leads to better student outcomes.

- 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.**

Educational deficiencies must be caught and corrected as early as possible in a student's school career. By the time students reach middle and high school it is much harder to correct reading and writing difficulties. Students are required to take standardized tests four times a year, but the results of these tests are not being used to make educational decisions about individual students. The end of year results are not even received until months into the next school year. The results are not being used to craft individual education plans, so how are these tests benefitting our students? The tests take valuable classroom time that could be spent on activities that are actually interesting to the students so that they are inspired to learn.

- 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**

One of the biggest barriers to learning in my district is not knowing English. As a whole, APS is only graduating 53% of English language learners. These kids are struggling through classes because they don't understand the language. Our programs to teach them English are not effective. These kids don't have equal access to education because they cannot understand what is being taught.

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

I am committed to work with the other members and to fulfill my individual responsibilities so that the team functions properly. I will research the issues to prepare for discussions at our meetings. I will ask questions that come from a critical thinking position so discussions lead to productive results. I share teaching roles with other people in my volunteer work. Many times my critical thinking skills helped our team plan long-term goals as well as positively affect logistics within the classroom. Being able to see process-related details makes me a valuable asset to any team.

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



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Candidate Signature**

01/03/2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**