



**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](mailto:boarded@aps.edu).

**Personal Information**

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

Name: C. Douglas Brown

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residency in School District: 40 years

*(Check Preferred)*

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Fax Number: N/A, Primary Email address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Senior Engineer working in Cyber Security Technologies

Employer: Sandia National Laboratories

Business Address: [REDACTED]

Business Telephone: [REDACTED]

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: Like everyone, I will take occasional vacations

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 \_\_\_\_

I will be retiring in March 2017

## **Experience**

Answers should be brief and concise.

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

Because I am concerned about the situation in APS, with low graduation rates and with many graduates requiring remedial courses in college. This affects our entire community and state. It makes it difficult for students to get good jobs, and it affects employers who are having trouble finding qualified employees. I am retiring in March and want to give back to the community by serving on the APS Board now that I will have the time to do so.

2. What is your interest in education?

I have a history of family involvement in education. My mother taught public elementary school. My wife taught pre-school and PE at a private school. My daughter is currently working as a mid-school band director at a Title I school in Colorado Springs. My grandchildren attend school out of state. I want to improve our educational system because it has such an impact on our society.

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

I wholeheartedly support the mission and vision of the district. There are many things that can and should be done to ensure that students succeed. Some of the things I would do are:

- Implement a teacher evaluation process not based primarily on student test scores. Reduce or eliminate the dependence on computer-based standardized tests for the evaluation of schools and teachers.
- Examine the budget to see where more money can be directed to the classroom.
- Emphasize quality education focused on the basics of reading, writing, and math, not political correctness. Examine the curriculum and make any changes needed to ensure that students develop good basic skills in elementary school.
- Restore the independent internal auditing function in APS to ensure fiscal accountability.

4. How will you work with the superintendent?

It is imperative that there be a good working relationship between the Board and the Superintendent in order to have a successful outcome in educating our students. The Board sets policy and approves the budget, whereas the Superintendent implements policy and provides information and recommendations to the Board.

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

My two children attended Chelwood Elementary and Jackson Mid-School and graduated from Manzano High School.

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

See answer to Question 4 above.

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

I am a Senior Engineer at Sandia Labs serving as the Engineering Manager for a major DOE computer network. I oversee the work of about 30 engineers across the country and direct the work of about 10 engineers at Sandia. I manage an annual budget of \$2-4 million. Some of the skills I have learned in my 40 years at Sandia are leadership, communication (speaking and writing), and financial management. I served as a line manager for seven years from 1993-2000. During the rest of my career, I have operated without formal authority and have managed to be very successful using persuasion and influence to accomplish shared objectives. I have served on the boards of a couple of organizations and am accustomed to working collaboratively in a group setting. I believe these will be valuable skills for serving on the Board of Education.

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

I served as the Sunday School Superintendent in two different churches over a 30 year period. I was responsible for recruiting teachers, organizing classes, and providing curriculum and materials. During that 30 years, I personally taught children in classes ranging from pre-school through mid-school. For the past ten years, I have taught adult classes. This experience on a small scale gives me an inkling of the massive issues facing an educational system as large as APS.

9. How do you plan to work with constituents?

I am not sure who you are including in the term “constituents”, but I plan to take advantage of Board meetings, community forums, and other venues to receive input from parents, teachers, administration, and concerned citizens.

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

The challenges are many. APS faces high drop-out rates, poor reading, writing, and math skills among many of our graduates, low teacher morale and a shortage of qualified teachers, and schools that are failing according the PARCC testing standards. I see an opportunity to turn this situation around and make APS an exemplary school system, if we take a fresh look and think out-of-the-box to identify new and better approaches.

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.

We need to start with offering classes to parents to help them develop parenting skills long before their children reach Kindergarten, and even before birth. This does not all have to be done by APS. I believe we can involve community organizations and take advantage of volunteers to support this activity.

- 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.

I think we need greater variety in our curriculum, especially in high school. Some students have a need to attend college and an interest in doing so. I was one of those students. But other students, probably the majority, have no interest in attending college and probably no need to do so; however, they do need good skills in reading, writing, math, and critical thinking. The one-size-fits-all approach of Common Core and the associated PARCC tests does not lend itself to the variety that is needed in the curriculum. I believe we need more programs in high-school that are oriented toward vocations, and perhaps there are opportunities to partner with CNM in this respect. If the students see their classes as relevant to success in life and as more interesting to them, they will be less likely to drop out.

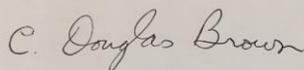
- c. **Developing the Whole Child** – APS will ensure each child is safe, engaged, challenged and supported through programs and practices focused on removing social, emotional and physical barriers to learning and increased health literacy.
- Safe and welcoming environment
  - Whole Child includes...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

I have already addressed some of this in Section (b) above. I believe the teachers need to be given the flexibility to exercise their creativity to engage students in the learning process. Students learn in a variety of ways, and a good teacher is able to tailor their teaching methods to the needs of the students in their classroom. There are opportunities to partner with the community in meeting the needs of parents and students, as I have mentioned above. I particularly like the mentoring program in elementary schools that I heard about recently, and I know two men currently serving as mentors. I would like to see this program expanded to take advantage of community volunteers to provide assistance and encouragement to struggling students.

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

I have served on boards in the past, and I realize I will be just one of several board members. It is necessary to work together cooperatively and collaboratively, if we are to rise to meet the substantial challenges faced by APS.

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



12/29/2016

Candidate Signature

Date