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: Ali Ennenga
First: Ali
Middle: 
Last: Ennenga

Residence Address: 

Length of Residency in School District: 2 years

(Check Preferred)
□ Home Telephone: 
□ Office: 

Fax Number: 
Primary Email address:

Occupation: Reading/Education Consultant and Executive Director of Color Clarity, Inc., A Non-Profit organization

Employer: Self employed; Color Clarity, LLC

Business Address: 

Business Telephone: 
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 ____ X No ____
  If yes, what are your affiliations? Teacher from 2009-2015 ____________________________

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 believe that parents should be able to trust the APS School Board to do all that it can to raise our state from 49th in the country to a much higher level than the status quo. With seven years in education and eighteen as a paralegal, I am competent to partner with parents to make sure the Board is held accountable for all things pertaining to our children’s education. I want to bridge the gap between the boardroom and the classroom. I want to be more involved in my community and give confidence back to the students and teachers.

2. What is your interest in education?
Life-long learning is a way of life for me. I also love to teach. I have been a teacher in many aspects of my life: in my community, in the public school classroom, and in my church. We need to fix the underlying problems with education in our schools. Reading, for example, is fundamental to learning. We are losing students and that is unacceptable. I am dedicated to keeping our students active, in school, and engaged in their own education.

3. In what ways will you support the mission and vision of the district?
I will support the mission of Albuquerque Public Schools by serving the students in my District through active involvement in the community. The Mission Statement and community involvement of the School Board will serve as my guide.

4. How will you work with the superintendent?
A relationship between the Board and the Superintendent is one of cooperation and collaboration. One of the responsibilities of the Board is to hold the superintendent accountable to the Board, the parents, and the students whom he or she serves.
5. What is your past and current involvement with Albuquerque Public Schools?

I was a teacher with APS for seven years. I taught for one year at Atrisco Elementary in the south valley, a year at Madison Middle School in the northeast heights, and five years back in the south valley at Ernie Pyle Middle School. I left the classroom during the 2015/2016 school year to pursue a career in Reading and Educational consulting, because I saw a need in the community to help more than just the students in my classroom. Currently, I coach students with difficulties in reading and math, and help them resolve those issues very quickly.

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

The superintendent is accountable to the School Board, just as the board is accountable to parents and the community we serve.

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

By nature, I am a very positive person and I look for the best in all people, especially in our children. I bring the benefit of hands-on experience in teaching in bi-cultural schools, and I have personal experience interacting with parents from culturally diverse backgrounds. I am personally familiar with the unique needs and challenges of children with learning disabilities. I am not afraid of hard work, nor am I afraid of a challenge. I am a very effective communicator with good public relation skills and the ability to appreciate different points of view. I have excellent organizational skills.

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

- At Atrisco Elementary School, I was the Third Grade Chair on the Instructional Council and, I instituted the Albertson’s partnership program, which allocates a portion of the store’s revenue to the school for classroom expenses.

- For three of my five years at Ernie Pyle Middle School, I was a member of the Instructional Council. I was also the AVID (Achievement Via Individual Determination) Coordinator for the school during my last year there. This program prepares students for high school and, ultimately, for college. Further, I organized an after-school program for students in which they used looms to knit hats for premature babies at Presbyterian Hospital’s Neonatal Unit.
- Above and beyond teaching in the classroom, I served for a year and a half as a Cub Scout Den Leader helping 8-year-old and 9-year-old boys achieve merit badges and progress to the next level of scouting.

- I served as a camp director for 12-18 year old girls for three consecutive years.

- I work with the Catholic Charities Just Serve program. To date, I have assisted in cleaning up the trash along Alameda Blvd the week before the Balloon Fiesta started, and I have assisted in cooking and serving breakfast to APD officers at the North Valley Substation.

- Twice a month for the past two years, I have organized and conducted learning activities such as sewing, cooking, drama, music, organizational skills, dancing, and healthy habits, for girls between the ages of 8 and 11.

- I am a member of the Education Committee for the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. We strive to further education for students by providing scholarships to deserving students.

9. How do you plan to work with constituents?

I propose a monthly District PTO meeting in the community to meet with constituents. This meeting will allow parents, students, teachers, and other members of the community to ask questions, express concerns, and bring any issues to my attention. I will make it my responsibility to convey those concerns to the Board on behalf of the community. I also have dedicated a cell phone number for the use of any constituent who needs my assistance.

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

There are many opportunities for the District. Many of those opportunities call for improvement. I believe that we must move APS forward in reading and math. We have a real opportunity with Sandia Labs and LANL to use innovations in STEM technology to move our students from next-to-last in the nation to a substantially higher level. One of the biggest challenges is our inability to perform. Teachers need to be able to own what they do in the classroom. I know many teachers who feel as if they are not able to instruct students the way they should be instructed – that they are “teaching to the test”. Teachers and parents need us, as a board, to support them and allow them to do what needs to be done in the classroom, in order for our students to be productive and responsible citizens.
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 more parental involvement. Any programs we have must ensure that parents are engaged throughout the child’s elementary and secondary school career.

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.

   The district needs to be prepared for the ever-changing landscape mentioned above by developing, implementing, and/or reconstructing programs and interventions that will prepare our students for the challenges ahead of them. The right programs, if implemented correctly, will reduce and possibly eliminate the need for remediation.

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

   In order to develop the whole child, the above mentioned bullet points are key. However, I have personally seen how these items are not being accomplished in schools. Some of the policies and procedures that are in effect in the District are not promoting the development of the whole child. We need to look at these programs and ensure that they are accomplishing this goal. If not, they need to be thrown out. We need to ensure that the programs that do promote developing the whole child are researched, studied, and implemented in our school district.
12. If elected, how will you work with the current board?

It will be my pleasure to work with current members of the board, as well as newly elected board members. I will make it my personal responsibility to ensure my constituents are represented and that they have a voice in the boardroom. I will work hard to bridge the gap between the boardroom and the classroom.

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

[Signature]

Candidate Signature

1-2-17

Date