



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: Racheal Marie Gonzales, MBA
First Middle Last

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residency in School District: 18 years

(Check Preferred)

Home Telephone: [REDACTED]

Fax Number: _____ Primary Email address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Director of Human Resources

Employer: American Income Life Insurance

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: _____

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?

Because I want to continue to improve the lives of children in our community. I have worked as a child advocate in the NM legislature since 2012. Helping to pass laws which educate and protect children.

2. What is your interest in education?

Education is the great equalizer. It offers opportunity to all children equally. I worked at APS full-time while attending the University of Phoenix to obtain a Bachelor and Master's degree. My goal is to be a role model to all children.

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

In all ways which helps improve and promote the well being of our students and teachers.

4. How will you work with the superintendent?

I have skills and experience in working with a diverse population, and have been successful in working both sides of the aisle in the NM Legislature.

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

As a parent and former employee of APS for 7 years, I have classroom experience and finance experience as I worked as an internal auditor.

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

I believe that the board of education should be a voice for students and teachers of the district. Working with the Superintendent will help accomplish the goal.

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

7 years working for APS, in the classroom, finance, and internal audit. I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Management, and a Master of Business Administration degree.

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

I actively participate with my children's education activities. I also volunteer providing jackets, sleeping bags, gloves, and socks for the homeless. I have worked as a child advocate in the NM Legislature since 2012 as a volunteer.

9. How do you plan to work with constituents?

One on one as often as possible. Personally, face to face.

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

There are many opportunities for improvement. The district must be able to compete with different modalities of learning, including Charter, on-line, private, and other sources of learning.

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 early learning opportunities at the neighborhood schools. (Pre-K)
Example: The Family Focus Center at Zia Elementary.

- 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.

Lower the class size of the core courses to provide more student to teacher access.

- 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 personally worked on a safe and healthy environment when I helped to pass Erin's Law, which provides age appropriate education for safe touch, unsafe touch; safe secrets, unsafe secrets. As an advocate for children, I support all pro-children initiatives.

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

I will work as a team to ensure the safety of our children and provide them a great education.

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

Rachel Gonzales, MBA

Candidate Signature

1/2/2017

Date