

**SUPERINTENDENT CANDIDATE FORUM – BUSINESS AND
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**
Friday, April 10, 2015, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

QUESTIONS ASKED:

1. Please tell us how you would have an open dialogue and communication with the business community. What would this look like?
2. How would you define a student-centered approach to education reform? And what education reform policies would you employ that are student-centered?
3. Describe how you would support linking students to social service agencies?
4. New Mexico is implementing common core standards. How will you ensure that this is a success in APS?
5. Describe how you would reinforce procedures proven to identify and address chronically truant and absent students under your watch?
6. Please discuss your knowledge base and philosophy with what PED is asking for with evaluations, common core state standards and PARCC.
7. What experiences do you bring to work with a 1.3 billion dollar budget?
8. Explain how you would support effective professional development for teachers, including teacher mentoring programs where highly effective teachers help those teachers who may need guidance and support.
9. What is your experience working with all students of color? Please give an example of how you have addressed the needs of African American students.
10. What is your plan for expanding STEM programs in APS?
11. Please share your strategy for recruiting and retaining STEM teachers to ensure our students are prepared with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century workforce.
12. How will you support the needs of our military connected students?
13. What is your approach in working with charter schools?
14. In New Mexico, student achievement data is included in teacher evaluations. How will you move this policy forward?
15. What is your plan to support classes and subjects like Art and Music?
16. What is your plan to work with state legislators that are working to increase funding for Early Childhood Education from the Land Grant Permanent fund?
17. Given the challenges of urban education, how long do you believe it would take you to have a meaningful impact on APS? Are you willing to commit this period of time to APS?

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QUESTIONS NOT ASKED:

(Some questions were asked multiple times.)

- What is your strategy for increasing parental involvement and accountability, a key driver in academic success?
- Topic – career readiness – What are your strategies for collaboration with business, industry, government leaders to develop/strengthen career preparation of students to help them see the relevance of education to careers and their futures?
- How would you ensure that all third graders can read at proficiency? Please identify your strategies, including retention, to accomplish this goal?
- There is an agreement with teachers regarding the number of absences a teacher can have per year. Currently, PED is docking teachers on their evaluations while teachers are on FMLA or within their agreement. What position would you take with the PED on absences for teachers?
- What does equity look like in a school system?
- How do you propose working with the growing number of students, families, and community who are resisting the high stakes tests which grade our schools and evaluate our teachers?
- How will you ensure all our schools, many in high poverty communities, are supported and enriched?
- Students are more engaged and successful when all their identities are embraced and affirmed in the school environment. Ethnic studies, strong support for LGBTQ students, model policies for transgender and gender-nonconforming students and accompanying PD are examples. How will you make creating an affirming environment for all students a priority?
- Do you support district professional development that focuses on educator core beliefs?
- How would you have an open dialogue and communication with the business community? What would it look like?
- In NM, student achievement data is included in teacher evaluations. How will you move this policy forward?
- NM is implementing common core standards. How will you ensure that this is a success at APS?
- How would you define a student-centered approach to education reform?
- How would you ensure that all 3rd graders can read at proficiency? Identify strategies, including retention, to accomplish this.
- In what ways are you supportive of linking students to social services by creating youth or family service centers on school sites?
- How will you address testing in APS schools?
- What is your definition of student achievement?

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- How do you propose nurturing, supporting, and growing our children's unique culture, gifts and resources?
- What is your plan about supporting classes and subjects like art and music?
- What is your plan to improve our APS for the 5 coming years?
- We have heard that funding will be cut from art and music. Are you going to support this?
- How will you be a model of social justice in APS?
- How do you propose to narrow the achievement gap?
- Response to Intervention has turned into a referral process instead of focusing on early intervention and remediating deficits to allow success for students. What approach would you use to redirect RTI to its original purpose?
- How would you partner with businesses, nonprofit corporations, and the University of New Mexico to make the development of culturally relevant curriculum an engine for economic growth and academic achievement in New Mexico?
- What is your position on the importance of family engagement?
- What are your opinions on the usefulness of national assessment schemes for New Mexico with its unique demographic and cultural character?
- Please elaborate on the importance of improving health to improve learning.
- What is your experience working with students of color? Give an example of how you solved problems with African American students.
- Given the challenges of urban education, how long do you believe it would take you to have a meaningful impact on APS? Are you willing to commit this period of time to the APS?
- What experiences do you have that qualifies you to run a 1.3 billion dollar budget?
- Is the board prepared to reject all candidates if none truly meet expectations?
- How would you characterize your views on schools of choice/charter schools?
- What is your most innovative idea that you would introduce and implement?
- What is your familiarity with NM Education Funding formula? How would you advocate, change or improve it?
- How would describe your management style? Examples please.
- Please describe how important you believe "character studies" are and their relevance at different levels of K-12?
- Please tell us your priorities for principal preparation and support.
- What is a success you have had with dealing with local, state, or federal government?
- Please describe the role you believe parents should play in their children's educations and steps you might take to realize this role.
- What is your opinion of the PARCC assessment and its impact on special education students and lack of accessibility to modifications?

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- How do you envision yourself working with school principals?
- Describe your experience both as a teacher and administrator, in improvement of educational outcomes.
- How can technology be most effectively used in the classroom and maintained for the long term as hardware and software continue evolving? K-12
- Would you say your management style is student-centric?
- What strategies would you employ to provide more mentorship for new teachers in their first few years in the classroom, particularly since the retention rate is an ongoing issue?
- What is your experience with collective bargaining – and what are your thoughts about it?
- What is your philosophical understanding of community school models and approaches to increasing community partnership to support families in poverty?
- What are your ideas about community schools?
- Could you please share your knowledge and experience of community schools?
- What value do charter schools bring to a public school district?
- How do you see school counselors fitting into the educational setting?
- Are you going to seek input from all departments, on an individual basis regardless of whether they are a direct report?
- Because raising graduation rates begins long before high school, what are your instructional priorities toward meeting this goal?
- How will you include the community and organizations in the decision-making process to move the district forward?
- New Mexico rewards its highly effective teachers and school leaders. What are your strategies for rewarding our very best teachers?
- Discuss any ideas you might have for APS/business collaboration.
- How important is character education in the development of students?
- How do you suggest we handle students who are not proficient in math or reading?
- Are you aware of the positive effects of mindfulness programs on student behavior and achievement and are you open to bringing this to our schools?
- Philosophy/models for impacting/influencing communities, families, students in high poverty and culturally diverse areas? Traditional models do not fit us
- What is your opinion of the PARCC assessment and the Pearson conglomerate?
- Concern regarding inclusion and breaking down barriers of learning. What is your view of full-service schools model and support?
- What is your stance on ethnic studies as a truancy prevention strategy?
- As a business leader, I am concerned about kids skipping school. What is your plan to keep kids from skipping?
- What is your plan to address truancy rates at APS?

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- A teacher – I have cancer and need surgery, chemo and radiation. NMTEACH makes me worry for my job. What would/could you do to help?
- What is your position on truancy court? Please explain.
- Truancy is a nationwide challenge. What are your strategies to create a culture of consistent daily attendance in APS?
- As superintendent how will you address truancy?
- What will you do to decrease truancy?
- How do you plan to plan to improve attendance and truancy rates?