



**Albuquerque Public Schools
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.

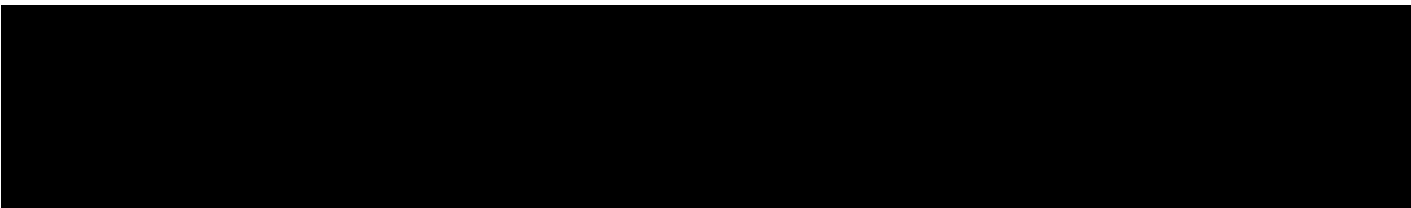
Candidates are requested to return their questionnaire to the Board Services Office, by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 4, 2013. Mailed questionnaires must be received by Friday, January 4, 2013. Address to: Board of Education Services Office, 2013 Board Election, Alice and Bruce King Educational Complex, 6400 Uptown Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, N.M. 88110. Questionnaires may also be faxed to 880-2575 by the deadline above. Please call the Board of Education Services Office at 880-3737 to confirm fax arrivals, or for other information.

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

Name: Donald R. Duran
First Middle Last



Length of Residency in School District: 31 years



Occupation: Retired Educator and Part time University Professor

Employer: New Mexico Highlands University

Business Address: 1700 Grande Court, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Business Telephone: 505-891-6900

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.? Yes X No _____

Additionally, there are four board committees that meet twice a month at 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.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 ten hours a week in reading, researching, miscellaneous meetings, school visits, telephone calls, and e-mail correspondence. 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 am running for APS Board of Education because I have always been a champion of quality public schools for our community. I believe that my experience in education for over 41 years has prepared me to be an advocate and voice for quality academic schools for all of our children.

Throughout my career, I have been a proponent of public schools that prepare our students to make choices for the future. Strong public schools translate to a strong community that provides a future for all children.

2. What is your interest in education?

My experiences in public education have lead me to believe that we need to provide different learning opportunities for children to succeed. The quality of a public education should not depend on the neighborhoods where children live, but rather, our community must work towards the guarantee that all children, regardless of economic levels or degree of special services needed, should be provided with the tools to be successful.

3. How would you support the mission of the district?

I would work to support the mission of the district as articulated by the APS Board of Education and work with the Superintendent to identify indicators that would guide his work. I would give voice to the community at the school site as the board sets the mission of the district.

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

I was both a parent and an employee of the Albuquerque Public Schools. My three children attended and graduated from APS schools. I was an employee of Albuquerque Public Schools for 22 years as a teacher and a principal.

5. What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of Albuquerque Public Schools?

The strengths of our school district are the highly qualified teachers, the dedicated support staff, the effective administrators, and their commitment to the children of our community.

The weakness of our school district is the lack of community engagement at the school sites, the lack of site level decision-making, and not focusing on listening to all voices as we all work to engage parents and the community in our schools.

6. What is the role of the Board of Education?

The role of the Board is defined in State Statute:

The Section 22-5-4, NMSA 1978, provides that local school boards shall have the following powers and duties: A local school board shall have the following powers or duties:

- A. Subject to the regulations of the department, develop educational policies for the school district.
- B. Employ a superintendent of schools for the school district and fix his salary.
- C. Review and approve the school budget.
- D. Acquire, lease and dispose of property.
- E. Have capacity to sue and be sued.
- F. Acquire property by eminent domain as pursuant to the procedures provided in the Eminent Domain Code.
- G. Issue general obligation bonds of the school district.
- H. Provide for the repair of and maintain all property belonging to the school district.
- I. For good cause and upon order of the district court, subpoena witnesses and documents in connection with a hearing concerning any powers or duties of the local school board.
- J. Except for expenditures for salaries, contract for the expenditure of money according to the provisions of the Procurement Code.
- K. Adopt rules pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local school

7. What is the role of individual board members?

The individual board member should articulate the vision and voice of the community. A board member is a member of the entire board and should work to bring consensus and focus to policy issues. The individual board member cannot speak for the Board unless authorized to do so by the entire Board. The individual board member has a responsibility to the community to set the ethical and moral judgment in the decisions that face the board. Individual

board members should respect the voice of the community as they strive to set an atmosphere of an honest and open communication with the superintendent and the community.

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

One of the most important responsibilities that the Board has is to hire and devalue the superintendent. The Board should have an honest and open communication with the superintendent to ensure that the educational policies are being carried out. The Board should articulate the goals for the superintendent and hold him/her accountable for meeting those goals. The Board is responsible to insure that the superintendent is meeting those goals and not shrink from its responsibility to evaluate his/her performance.

9. What unique qualities would you bring to the Board of Education?

I have over 41 years in education as a custodian, educational assistant, teacher, federal program director, assistant principal, principal, superintendent, and Assistant Secretary of Education for the State of New Mexico. I have lived in District 6 for over 31 years and have been involved in many educational issues that have faced our community in the past. In addition, I have an Ed.D in educational leadership from the University of New Mexico.

10. Other school/community volunteer activities related to the community:

I have served in many educational advisory boards and I have participated in community and church activities.

11. What do you think is the best way for the district to:

a. Improve academic achievement and close the achievement gap?

The Board should make student achievement the primary goal for the superintendent. The Board sets the goal; the superintendent presents a plan for implementation and is held accountable for meeting those goals.

b. Maintain financial accountability and still support student achievement, family and community engagement and a safe school environment?

The board is responsible for approving the budget for the district. The budget must reflect the priorities identified by the school community and support the district in meeting those priorities. The board should invite and be an example of listening to all the voices of the community and provide a safe and encouraging atmosphere for parents and employees to voice their grievances and support for our schools. The Board must encourage community engagement from the individual schools to the district level.

c. Make a safe and supportive climate for learning and working that maximizes student achievement?

The Board must insist that all employees model a positive climate for all stakeholders. Meeting the challenges of our schools means being open to a diversity of views from our employees and parents. We cannot maximize our full potential unless the Board models a safe environment as it listens to all the voices.

d. Engage families and enhance partnerships in the community to maximize student achievement?

The success of our schools depends on the full participation of our parents and community. We cannot succeed unless we work together as a community to enhance and insure that our students participate in a quality education.

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

