



ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Accelerate Progress for Students

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: **Elizabeth Armijo**

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residency in School District: **2.5 years**

(Check Preferred)

Home Telephone: _____ Office: _____ [REDACTED]

Fax Number: [REDACTED]

Primary Email address:

Occupation: [**Small business owner,**] Marketing & Communications

Employer: **ORG Agents, LLC**

Business Address: _____

Business Telephone: [REDACTED]

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. 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'm passionate about education and the life-long opportunities a good public education can provide - especially for our children. I believe that now, more than ever, citizens should actively participate and engage in ways to make our communities stronger. As a parent of an APS student, I will be a voice for children, families, and educators.

I have a sense of fairness and understand that there are complex issues that affect our students. I know that learning in the classroom needs to be innovative, relevant and connect with the diverse learning styles of our children and that it's incredibly important that educators have a voice in their classrooms. I am interested in how our schools can better engage families and the community.

2. What is your interest in education?

I believe we *all* have a vested interest in public education since education is related to our economy, growth, poverty and crime. We should all work to promote strategies for learning and engagement and be a part of the equation.

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

I will serve with integrity to support APS' mission and vision which values all students and works towards improving student outcomes.

4. How will you work with the superintendent?

The job of the an elected school board member is to make sure the superintendent is doing his or her job as the executive of the school district. I will commit time and energy to nurture a positive relationship with the superintendent and the board members.

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

Over the past 15 years, both my children have attended APS. I have been an involved and active parent and have served on my children's PTAs. My daughter is a graduate from APS and is in college and my son is currently a sophomore.

I participated in my children's Drama, Softball, Baseball, and other school events.

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

The relationship should be positive and have ongoing, frequent communication. The superintendent and board should work on a shared vision that consist of goals and strategies that support the Master Academic Plan.

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

I have been a long-time community advocate in New Mexico. I have worked extensively within diverse communities, collaborating with populations who experience disparities and injustices. As a mentor, and employer, and an advocate, I have promoted inclusiveness and cultural awareness in all my initiatives. My career and life passion have been rooted in promoting civil rights, racial justice, and women's empowerment.

I am experienced and accomplished in relationship management, including stewardship, cultivation and facilitation work with boards, councils, staff, volunteers and donors. My work style is about understanding the client, exploring creative approaches to their needs, and being resourceful while providing an incredible client-focused experience. I have a BA in Communications & Journalism.

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

Previously I have served on ZIA PTA and Noah's Ark childcare center board. Below are the boards I currently serve on:

- NAACP Albuquerque Branch, 2nd Vice President
- Heart Hospital Foundation Board, President

9. How do you plan to work with constituents?

As a school board member, I will be active, visible and accessible. It's important to hear the concerns and ideas from the constituents in the district. I will engage and seek input at various levels.

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

APS does an especially good job with it's community wrap-around schools - I'd like to see APS expand on that model. The biggest challenge to APS has to do with funding - for our schools and our front-line educators. We need to retain our best teachers and make sure they feel valued.

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.**

I am a strong proponent of early childhood education and believe the district should actively support state legislative efforts to expand quality early childhood education funding and home visitation programs. Numerous studies have demonstrated that the investments in early learning leads to lifelong success - improved test scores, high school graduation and the increased likelihood of attending college.

Early learning is then supported in the classroom with teachers helping to develop the language, reading and number skills. The Academic Master Plan, established Fall 2015, lays out goals, focus areas, and key strategies. I'm in support of the groundwork that was done to establish the Plan and will work to ensure evaluation strategies are in place.

- 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'm in support of the groundwork that was done to establish the Academic Master Plan and will work to ensure evaluation strategies are in place. The two focus areas I would like to see more emphasis on are: 1. Develop schools, schedules and course offerings to retain students and improve their success rates. 2. Develop partnerships that extend student learning beyond the classroom including internships, apprenticeships and on-the-job training.

- 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 believe that all students should be supported and feel safe in school and that programs like the arts and physical education help create a more well-rounded student. Again, I support the groundwork that was done to establish the Academic Master Plan and will work to ensure evaluation strategies are in place. The focus areas I would like to see more emphasis on are: 1. Sustain and expand community schools. 2. Expand support services including nursing, counseling and social work. 3. Provide training to ensure that classroom instruction mitigates commonly exhibited behavior challenges.

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

As a school board member, I would work with the current members to uphold the vision and goals, and measure the success of the district and superintendent. I would collaborate as a team on all decisions that impact the district.

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

____ Elizabeth Armijo _____ 1/3/2017

Candidate Signature

Date