



Albuquerque Public Schools
2015 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 Monday, January 5, 2015. Mailed questionnaires must be received by Monday, January 5, 2015. Address to: Board of Education Services Office, 2015 Board Election, Alice and Bruce King Educational Complex, P.O. Box 25704, Albuquerque, N.M. 87125-0704. Questionnaires also 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.

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

Name: Peggy Lee Muller-Aragon
First Middle Last

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residency in School District: 55 years

(Check Preferred)

☐ Home Telephone: [REDACTED] ☐ Office: _____ ☒ Cell: [REDACTED]

Fax Number: — Primary Email address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: Retired Teacher

Employer: —

Business Address: —

Business Telephone: —

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.? Yes ☒ No _____

Additionally, there are five board committees that mostly meet once a month at 7:30 a.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; some board members spend 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?

To bring a sense of civility, objectivity and a working knowledge of the classroom to the Board.

2. What is your interest in education?

My interest is to provide equal access to a quality education for all students. I know as a parent and retired teacher that education is a societal equalizer.

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

As a School Board Member I will reach out to my constituents, parents and A.P.S. students to seek collaborative ideas on how to improve students' performance and achievement.

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

I spent the entirety of my career with A.P.S. working as an elementary teacher from 1980 until my retirement in 2010. Currently, I engage family and friends about what is going on in A.P.S., giving them advice about best practices, what good teaching looks like and how they can best improve their child's learning experience.

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

Schools? Its strengths are its students and parents. Its weakness is its inability to effectively engage their consumers (parents and students) in meaningful dialogue. Another weakness is its apparent refusal to replicate the wonderful ideas present in other schools both private and in surrounding areas.

6. What do you consider the role of the Board of Education?

The role of the Board is to establish policies that govern the operation of A.P.S., as well as, to hire a Superintendent to ensure the implementation of the Board's policy and as such the Superintendent is responsible for making sure the Board does the same.

7. What do you consider the role of individual board members?

As a Board Member we work collaboratively to carry out the Board's policy and to hire a Superintendent. As the representative of District 2 I will engage my constituents, especially students, in regards to the Board's policy.

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

The relationship is one of employer-employee. The Board's only real employee is their Superintendent, as such it is imperative there be open and honest dialogue with complete transparency.

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

I would bring a sense of civility, professionalism, experience, but mostly the ability to listen and not be pre-disposed until I have listened to everything on all sides.

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

community? I have been a Roadrunner Food Bank Volunteer, Girl Scout Leader, Soccer & Volleyball Team Mom, Sponsor of Thanksgiving meals for families in our community, political volunteer for local, state & national candidates, parent chair of School Improvement Team, Fine Arts chair, chair of student success committee and a caretaker.

11. How do you plan to work with constituents about district initiatives?

The best way to work with constituents is through outreach using social media, as well as, holding neighborhood and constituent meetings. I also hope to attend PTA meetings in my district, as well as, around the entire district.

12. What letter grade would you give to the current Board of Education and the district?

I would give both a 'C'.

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

a. Improve academic achievement and close the achievement gap?

The District must first recognize that each child, each school, is not an exact replica of the other and using a cookie cutter model will likely not work. We must celebrate and accentuate the differences each school brings to our district.

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

The best way is to have transparency and know how much money is funnelled to A.P.S. through the funding formula and how that money is spent.

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

I feel that A.P.S. currently provides a safe and supportive learning climate and children have opportunities to achieve at the highest levels, but of course I am always open to any suggestions for improvement.

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

Creating dialogue between the district, students and parents. For too many years parents perceived their input was unwanted and not given serious consideration. The Board, as well as, A.P.S. must bring families into the equation in a meaningful way.

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

Peggy Muller-Aragon
Candidate Signature

1-4-15
Date