



**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: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    First  Middle  Last

Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Residency in School District: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Check Preferred)*

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  Office: \_\_\_\_\_  Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Telephone: 505.826.7706

Do you currently hold other public office?

Yes  No

If yes, list office: \_\_\_\_\_APS Board Member\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any affiliations with the Albuquerque Public Schools? Yes  No

If yes, what are your affiliations? \_\_\_\_\_APS Board President\_\_\_\_\_

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?

I want to continue to serve on the Albuquerque Board of Education as I feel I have been able to contribute to the Albuquerque Public School District's goals in providing quality education to all students. I have worked diligently as a board member to ensure that employees, parents, students and community have an active voice in providing input into district goals and policies. The district is now moving into ensuring that equity, cultural competency, and relevant curriculum is implemented. I believe that my experience provides a strong basis for continuing to make education paramount in the Albuquerque Public Schools for all students.

### 2. What is your interest in education?

I have spent my professional career looking for opportunities to improve learning for students regardless of their ethnic, economic, or special needs. I have worked hard to provide support, encouragement and professional development to the educators who work with our children day.

I want to provide input into our future; our future are the children of our community. I want to provide the support to ensure academic excellence.

I have 44 years of experience in education at all levels Pre-school through the University level. I have been an educational assistant, regular teacher, Title I teacher, bilingual teacher, Special Education Teacher, Title I Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, University Faculty, Charter School Director, and Executive Vice- President for Educational Support for a non- profit organization. In addition I have spent 63 years living and working in District 1. I attended the schools of District I East San Jose, Rio Grande High School, my children attended schools in this district, and now grandchildren attend schools in District 1.

I know and understand the educational, social, and positive attributes of this community.

I have the educational knowledge and training in an array of areas. I have earned a BS in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Bilingual Education, an MA in Special Education with a minor in computer technology, an MA in Remedial Reading, and a Ph.D. in Bilingual Special Education with a minor in Educational Administration.

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

I would support the mission of the Albuquerque School District by fully participating in the roles and responsibilities of a board member. I would also support the mission by advocating for best practices as we look at every component of implementing the APS Mission. I would also make sure that the District Superintendents' Strategic Plan is inclusive of all components of the mission.

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

I was employed with the Albuquerque Public Schools for 24.5 years. I was employed as an educational assistant, regular, Bilingual, Title I, Special Education teacher, Title I Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent.

Currently I am the APS Board President and have also served as the Vice- President for two years and member for one year.

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

The strength of our school district is the unique diversity that exists throughout the district. In addition we have highly qualified staff at every level of the district level both in our schools and district offices.

A weakness of our district is that of finding a system for on-going dialog with parents, teachers, community and administration. The time to do more than just listen but dialog with all stakeholders to ensure academic success has to be resolved.

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

The role of School Board of Education is to help set the vision and goals for the district, adopt policies that give the district direction to set priorities and achieve its goals, hire and evaluate the superintendent, adopt and oversee the annual budget, manage the collective bargaining process for employees of the district, and seek input from stakeholders.

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

The role of an individual board member is to actively contribute their unique talents while collaborating and working as a team with other board members. The role also includes being prepared, honest, communicate often with the constituents, and superintendent to ensure the needs of children in the district are being met. One school board member cannot act alone. Effective school board members contribute their unique talents while collaborating and working as a team with other board members.

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

The strength of the school program lies in the superintendent's skills and the trust and understanding that exists between the superintendent and the school board. Harmonious relations are enhanced by a clear understanding concerning the functions of the superintendent and the board. As the school board makes policies and the superintendent implements them, communication between these two must be thorough. There should be a working relationship based on honest communication and accountability in reaching the district goals.

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

1. I have 35 years of experience in education at all levels; including educational assistant, regular teacher, Title I teacher, bilingual teacher, Special Education Teacher, Title I Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, University Faculty, and Executive Vice- President for Educational Support for a non- profit organization.
2. I have spent 63 years living and working the in District 1. I know and understand the educational, social, and positive attributes of this community.
3. Educational Experience- I have earned a BS in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Bilingual Education, an MA in Special Education with a minor in computer technology, an MA in Remedial Reading, and a Ph.D. in Bilingual Special Education with a minor in Educational Administration.

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

I have served on educational and community advisory boards. I have participated in community and church activities. I have been selected to represent District 1 on community forums and committees. I participate as an active volunteer for the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children. New Mexico Bilingual Advisory Council, Hispanic Latino Education Task Force, Unidos Council, ABC Community Schools Board, Council of Great City Schools Board, NM Representative for 21st Century Centers.

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

I plan to continue to work with constituents on district initiatives through individual, group, organization, committees, and district community forum dialogs. I respond to individual as well as group requests to listen and engage in dialog with my constituents as issues around district initiatives arise. I also visit with schools and participate in community events at the schools and within the community where views, recommendations, suggestions and concerns are shared with me. It is critically important to me to hear from students, parents, employees, community organizations and the business community.

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

I would give the current Board of Education an "A" as I feel every member on the board is highly committed to the students within the Albuquerque Public Schools. It is the most professional Board of Education that I have ever had the privilege to work with during the last few years. Each member is passionate about doing the right thing for all students in the district. All members are highly skilled professionals that take the time to research, reflect carefully and make decisions thoughtfully.

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

- a. Improve academic achievement and close the achievement gap?

The best way for the district to improve academic achievement and finally close the achievement gap is to ensure that the curriculum in our district is culturally relevant to all students that the district serves. We must also use relevant assessment data to help drive the instructional process in each classroom, provide the most up to date resources including professional development, materials, technology and opportunities to engage families in our schools.

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

The best way for the district to maintain financial accountability and still support student achievement, family and community engagement and a safe school environment is to develop an academic strategic plan which includes financial priorities within our expected budget line items and include stakeholder involvement in the development of the academic plan. The strategic plan must include all components to effectively implement the strategic plan including resources to ensure school safety, professional development and instructional materials.

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

The best way to make a safe and supportive climate for learning and working that maximizes student achievement is to first ensure our physical buildings provide the best protection of students and employees with all the best secure up to date methods. Secondly, is to ensure that the district has a comprehensive plan to eliminate or prevent bullying at every school. Measures need to be taken to ensure that students who are suffering from poor self-esteem or need additional emotional support are given the services needed to maximize learning in our schools.

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

The best way to engage families and enhance partnerships in the community to maximize student achievement is to actively engage in on-going dialog with families and community partners. Engagement needs to be done in a setting where real dialog occurs and is not just a listening session. Dialog that leads to working together through issues resulting in solutions that can be implemented with accountability and ownership by each partner. It truly does take a "Village to Raise a Child" and it can be done effectively when opportunities to engage families and partnerships in the community occur.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate Signature

\_\_\_\_December 30, 2014\_\_\_\_  
Date