



### 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](mailto:boarded@aps.edu).

#### Personal Information

[Please Print, Type or Use Digital Form]

Name: Brian David Tierney

First Middle Last

Residence Address: [REDACTED]

Length of Residency in School District: Approximately 3 years

(Check Preferred)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Office: \_\_\_\_\_  Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: N/A; Primary Email address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: PhD Scientist/Engineer (Electrical Engineering/Semiconductor Device Physics)

Employer: Sandia National Laboratories

Business Address: All APS correspondence should be sent to my residence address.

Business Telephone: All APS related telephone calls should be directed to my residence telephone number.

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 X No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what are your affiliations? I am a parent of two APS students.

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 (Board service should not take 20-25 hours per week. On the 2013 questionnaire, it was claimed that it took 10 hours per week. What changed? No \_\_\_\_\_

## Experience

Answers should be brief and concise.

### 1. Why do you want to be a board member for Albuquerque Public Schools?

(Please go to [www.tierneyforAPSBoard.com](http://www.tierneyforAPSBoard.com) for details.)

My passion for education, my work & military experience (US Army Reserve, Airborne (paratrooper) Qualified All-Source Intelligence Officer; presently in the I.R.R.), and my life experience (married 15+ years, two children), have provided me with the requisite leadership attributes necessary to be an effective board member. Aside from professional obligations, I believe that citizens have civic responsibilities, and I possess the political acumen necessary for navigating the complex working relationships and cultural dynamics that exist in a school system as large as APS. Most importantly, as a parent of two APS students, the actions of the APS Board are deeply personal to me.

Furthermore, the Board has shown frequent disrespect toward the meaningful education of our children, the citizens who elect them, and the teachers who bear the brunt of their mismanagement. Most egregiously, the Board has jeopardized child safety by pandering to misguided people who want to let boys use the girls' bathrooms.

If elected to the Board, I will do my utmost to be a voice for reason on the Board, and will fight for the following objectives:

- (1) End Common Core. Restore local control!
- (2) Establish fiscal transparency of the APS budget and bureaucracy.
- (3) Institute parent and citizen collaboration with the Board.
- (4) Empower teachers by giving them more autonomy over their curriculum. Allow them to more easily remove chronically disruptive students from their classrooms!
- (5) Fight for smaller class sizes and fewer administrative tasks for teachers which keep them from teaching and grading. We can accomplish this by carefully re-allocating funds wasted on superfluous projects and by instilling a culture in APS that better respects teachers' time.
- (6) Keep the boys out of the girls' bathroom and vice versa!

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

It is imperative that we instill a culture of learning in America's greatest asset, our children, and provide opportunities not only for the college bound, but for those who seek a trade and those with special needs.

Personally, since I was five years old or younger, I have always been fascinated with scientific discovery; a love for asking questions and a passion for seeking answers. "Why does it work this way?" and "How does it work?" are questions I ask myself every day as regards a variety of subjects. Accordingly, I am determined to conduct my actions as a Board Member so as to instill that curiosity and passion for learning in all APS students, no matter what their specific interest: academic pursuits, the skilled trades, studying music or art, or learning the importance of physical fitness.

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

Presently, the Board provides no vision for the district. Rather, it panders to special interest groups that jeopardize the safety of children, and it squanders tax dollars on wasteful capital projects - money that could be used to alleviate the excessive administrative burdens placed on teachers. If elected to the Board, I will fight for a vision that includes more local control of our schools, empowerment of teachers (end Common Core!), greater parental involvement, and accountability to the citizen-taxpayers that fund the district.

4. How will you work with the superintendent?

I will always extend professional courtesy to all employees of the district, including the superintendent. However, it is the duty of each Board Member to ensure that the superintendent, a paid employee of the Board, executes the will of the Board. In turn, the Board must faithfully represent the citizens. Ideally, a relationship of mutual respect must exist in which the Board also seeks the frequent council of the superintendent, an individual who must be chosen based on prior experience as a competent administrator.

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

I am a concerned parent of two young APS students.

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

See answer to question 4.

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

As mentioned in question 1, my passion for education, my work and military experience, and my other life experiences have provided me with the requisite leadership attributes necessary to be an effective board member. In particular,

(1) I am passionate about education. I hold a PhD in EE (device physics) and want to instill that passion in our youth.

(2) I understand the complex political dimensions associated with managing a budget of approximately 1.3 billion dollars.

(3) I have the wisdom to recognize and utilize the expertise of others (e.g., teachers and effective administrators) and delegate necessary authority, while maintaining ultimate responsibility and accountability to my fellow citizens as a Board Member.

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

I currently serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Albuquerque Tea Party and as a local GOP ward secretary. As an Albuquerque Tea Party Board Member, I have organized and hosted several public functions such as local candidate forums and voter registration drives. Furthermore, I frequently volunteer in support of my children's

activities (e.g., serving as parental leader of Cub Scout Den activities such as lessons on science, engineering, and citizenship; serving as a science fair volunteer.)

9. How do you plan to work with constituents?

Active citizen/constituent engagement and feedback is crucial to the success of all APS students. The Board does not presently respect such participation. For example, what little citizen feedback exists at Board meetings is not welcome, highly regulated, and typically results in no meaningful discussion between Board Members and the citizens who elect them.

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

APS needs to do a much better job of tapping into the wealth of professional knowledge in the community that could assist in the education of all APS students. Albuquerque and the surrounding area are home to thousands of fine American scientists, engineers, skilled craftsmen, artists, and outstanding military personnel. These professionals are affiliated with Kirtland AFB, Sandia National Laboratories, UNM, Intel Corporation and other employers. APS does not effectively leverage the leadership that could be provided by such a talented, dedicated population of professionals.

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.

Brian Tierney's response: APS should only hire the smartest, most dedicated, and caring elementary school teachers in the state. Then, pay them well! Incidentally, the lack of proper and consistent English usage in the above question is an embarrassing and clear example that it is time to "clean up the mess that is APS!"

- 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.

Brian Tierney's response: Automatic promotion needs to be stopped if the achievement of a high school diploma is to signify any meaningful acquisition of knowledge. The job of a college, university, or post-secondary trade school, should not be to provide remedial training of basic mathematics and English skills.

- 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

Brian Tierney's response: Such goals have a better chance of being achieved by better respecting and encouraging greater parental involvement. Furthermore, a safe learning environment can only be achieved by never tolerating threats and assaults against teachers. Finally, keep the boys out of the girls' bathrooms and vice versa! [The fact that I make such a final statement is indicative of a complete lack of common sense and understanding of human nature exhibited by some members of the APS Board and administration.]

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

I will always extend professional courtesy to all Board members and respect the law, even if I disagree with it. However, I will always fight in support of the citizens who are my constituents. Ultimately, I will serve for them, and not other individual Board Members.

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



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Candidate Signature

January 2, 2016

Date