

Questions Asked of District 3 Candidates:

1. School board members must understand the needs of our public schools at the school level. What experience do you have that would help you understand what actually needs to happen in our schools to encourage our students to succeed?
2. Millions of dollars go out of our state to pay for tests, programs, consultants and curriculums in the failed attempt to measure our students, teachers, and schools. How do you propose to bring that back to our children and schools?
3. How should we appropriately measure performance of teachers?
4. Is APS too large? Should it be split into smaller districts?
5. What knowledge do you have of charter schools, and what role do charters play in public education?
6. Do you think APS complies with the “free and appropriate” requirement for students with disabilities?
7. What role does the school board have in school related decisions?
8. What concrete action will you take during your first week in office to make APS better?
9. What are you going to do to address the disproportionate suspension of minority students?
10. How do you feel about the Common Core Standards?

Questions Asked of District 5 Candidates:

1. What is the right way to vet and hire the superintendent?
2. Do you support or oppose splitting up APS into two or more school districts and why?
3. In 1981 New Mexico’s education ranked 49th in the nation. Over 35 years later, New Mexico education still ranked 49th. How will you improve New Mexico’s education so it’ll be better than 49th?
4. How do you propose to help our most challenged students by supporting teachers in these times of drastic budget constraints?
5. In each school community, there are immigrant students and immigrant parents. What specific steps will you take to assure that ALL students and parents feel SAFE and welcome in all of our schools?
6. What knowledge do you have of charter schools, and what role should charters play in public education?
7. Teachers are leaving APS in droves. The evaluation system does not give the picture of what hard work is happening every day in the class. How and what policies would you put in place to maintain and recruit more teachers?
8. How do you envision your leadership shaping or shifting dynamics on the school board?
9. How does the current bathroom policy that allows biological males to use the girls’ restroom protect the rights of every child?
10. What should APS do about truancy and how punitive should it be vs. triggering support services?
11. How do you propose to create critical thinking skills in our high school graduates?

Questions Asked of District 6 Candidates:

1. With looming budget cuts that have been described as drastic and draconian, what is your plan to ensure that our children will have a quality education?
2. How do you feel APS can best address the needs of students living in poverty?
3. What is your position on charter schools, vouchers and privatization of our public schools?
4. In your own words, what is the purpose of education?
5. Would you describe what academic rigor means to you?
6. Can you speak specifically about how individual schools can encourage parents to be involved in the school community, and in particular at the high school level. (not just participating in booster clubs)
7. What are your views on collective bargaining for APS employees?
8. If we want to keep cuts away from the classroom, how do you propose to support schools and teachers with students who have challenging behaviors?
9. How will you strive to reduce class size?
10. How can APS attract and better retain highly talented educators
11. What are your thoughts on systemic racism and would you be willing to participate in an anti-racism training if elected?
12. What will you do to ensure the success of students who speak English as a second language?

Questions Asked of District 7 Candidates:

1. To get and retain the best teachers, what policy would you propose and champion?
2. What are the causes of graduation disparities between APS high schools?
3. How will you respond to legislative efforts to break APS into multiple, smaller districts?
4. What will you advocate the district do to address the achievement/opportunity gap to support students living in poverty and students of color?
5. The governor's budget plans to utilize (raid) APS's \$120 million reserve fund. If this budget action passes, what should the board do?
6. How will you support gifted education in APS? Do you support universal screening for gifted students?
7. How do you plan to address the reading and math poor grades in this district
8. Do you believe that transgender students should be protected from bullying and discrimination?
9. What will you do to ensure teachers salaries will not be cut??
10. Do you support the PARRC test or what would you replace it with?
11. Do you believe there is institutional racism inherent in APS policy, and would you favor mandatory anti-racism training for APS faculty and staff?

Questions Not Asked At Forums Due to Time Constraints:

1. Why do you want to be a member of the APS Board of Education?
2. What are you going to do to dismantle the school to prison pipeline?
3. The turnout for school board election is extremely low. Would you be in favor of moving school board elections to Election Day?
4. What do you know about the AS Safe Haven Policy that prohibits Immigration officers from entering any APS campus and what will you do to re-affirm this policy?

5. What is the right way to terminate a superintendent?
6. How do charter schools contrast to regular schools?
7. How does the current bathroom policy that allows biological males to use the girls' restroom and locker rooms protect the rights of every child?
8. To all District 5 candidates: APS has a strong safe haven policy pertaining to immigrant students regarding not revealing information about immigration status and not allowing immigration officials access to school building or property. Are you committed to reaffirming this policy? Are you committed to ensuring this policy is communicated widely, and to meeting with APS families from immigrant and refugee community to discuss ways to strengthen this policy?
9. How are the results of standardized testing being used in the classroom?
10. What perspective would you bring to the board?
11. There is a low voter turnout for school board elections. Would you be in favor of moving the school board election day to the same Election Day as federal, state and local elections?
12. Are you willing to be held honestly accountable as a role model of student standards of conduct?
13. Do you think that board members should be held to the same standards of conduct as the students?
14. Do you think the board members should be held to the same standards of conduct as the students?
15. Do any of the candidates believe in promoting nepotism as a school board member?
16. Do you think board members should be held to the same standards as the students?
17. How will you ensure full transparency in all board activities?
18. Why do we pay superintendents to go away?
19. Why are you the best candidate to provide leadership to APS?
20. How do you think that the relationship between APS and the union is affecting the educational product?
21. How do you think that the relationship between APS and the union is affecting the educational product?
22. What role does the teachers union have in education?
23. How would you identify and deal with under-performing teachers?
24. How do you propose to honor the faith that students want to profess and demonstrate?
25. What is your position on vaping?
26. What is your position on early childhood pre-k and using the permanent fund to pay for it?
27. How do you propose to protect good sports teams for female students?
28. How do you feel about common core?
29. How do you balance the curriculum used to teach the beginnings of the universe?
30. What part do mothers and fathers play in the educational process?
31. What is your vision for how the schools can work more with community members and community partners?
32. Much of the job of a board member entails allocation of funds and adoption of policies to ensure the education of all APS children. Do you feel the board is currently provided with adequate information and timely enough information to make informed decisions? If not, what are your suggestions to change this situation?
33. Do any candidates believe in taking money from APS budgets -we have some member that have

34. Will you pass a budget that is not fully funded?
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37. Do you believe that an investigation be conducted by the feds in regards to conduct of APS employees?
38. What is right with APS?
39. Do you have any children in APS?
40. At what level should principals be empowered to self-govern?
41. What is wrong with teaching to the test?
42. How much weight should standardized testing have on a teacher's evaluation?
43. Can you address your views on the federal legislation passed in 2001 No Child Left Behind?
44. Are you willing to be held honestly accountable as a role model of student standards of conduct?
45. Why are we going to pay our superintendent a \$20,000 a month pension when we are broke?
The citizen contribution is 70% employee 30%
46. How many of you support ending special elections – they cost us \$400,000
47. What are the most important responsibilities of the school board?
48. How many of you are for disbanding the school board? Alaska did just that and it has worked and saved tons of money.
49. What does the school board do?
50. How should APS increase teaching days and decrease standardized testing days?
51. What is your opinion regarding paid leave for teachers alleged to be dangerous/inappropriate for children?
52. Do you believe teachers without training in specific subject matters should be teaching them? (i.e., math, science, English etc.)
53. What percentage of a teacher's evaluation should be based on student test scores?
54. Please explain what needs to be done to improve student success.
55. What do you think about vocational programs?
56. How would you support the relationship with CNM/College and Career High School and concurrent enrollment?
57. To all District 3 candidates: APS has a fairly strong safe haven policy for immigrant students, dating back to the late 90's, which aims to ensure a safe learning environment for all students regardless of immigration status. The policy ensures that students' personal information shall never be divulged; that immigration officials not be afforded access to school buildings/property. Are you committed to reaffirming this policy? How will you ensure that immigrant and refugee students and their families are fully informed about all aspects of this policy and have a channel to suggest improvements to it?
58. In the last few days, the Albuquerque Journal has reported that APS is apparently ignoring state statute in not formally, in writing, notifying parents that (3rd grade) students fall short of recognized standards for reading, and, is not requiring written waivers – Basically direction – to advance a student to the next higher grade level, acknowledging the lack of competence in reading to meet the standard. What is your intent regarding this apparent shortcoming in the stewardship of a student's education?

59. Parents and students should be your top priority. How can you ensure the students will get a top education instead of teaching to the test!
60. Are you ready, willing and able to serve as one of the senior-most role models of student standards of conduct?
61. What can you do to increase academic rigor for all students, that is the quality and depth of information being taught? Have you heard of “differentiated learning” in the classroom?
62. With almost constant armed conflicts and occupations: For many students, our schools have become a pipeline to the U.S. Military. It appears the armed forces are given free reign in the schools with ROTC and recruiters creating a dominate appealing image. Do you see a problem with this?
63. How will you handle the budget cuts in terms of teacher salaries?
64. The responses to how you feel the Board should work with the Superintendent varied widely – from collaborative, to expecting leadership from them, to directing them. What is your stance and why would it be the most effective?
65. What has inspired you to run for the school board and what do you as an individual have to offer.
66. With all the scientific research on prenatal to 3 around brain development do you see a role for APS in connecting with communities and providers to support families better with services and information on the foundational stage for learning
67. Is there any way teachers’ salaries can be linked to performance or to provide bonuses to excellence in teaching?
68. What are you going to do to get teacher pay increases?
69. What do you believe are the pros or cons of the current teacher evaluation system?
70. How do you feel about the kindergarten students taking tests on computers?
71. What is your opinion on how the PARCC test is implemented?
72. What do you see as the right balance of time between classroom instruction and state testing? Any options to paying out of state businesses for tests and curriculum?
73. Why would you be obsessed about bathrooms
74. How does APS protect employees with disabilities from gossip
75. Dr Percy – You have no children or grandchildren in APS. What causes you to work so hard to improve ABQ Public Schools? Same question to other: What causes you to seek a position on the APS Board?
76. How do you plan to be a role model for the students
77. Describe an example of a time when your character inspired confidence to lead others.
78. Would you commit to racial prejudice training and do you feel that our students face racial discrimination?
79. Do you believe that institutional racism affects APS students and families and are you willing to commit to anti-racism training?
80. How do you intend to address institutional racism at APS?
81. Describe your experience working with K-12 public school students?
82. How will you work to increase high school graduation rates?
83. Will you commit to further ethnic-based and culturally relevant curriculum, as codified in the APS K.1 Family and Community Engagement Policy?
84. Please have each candidate explain what they believe common core is?

85. Ethics are important. If you are called to question about your business will you resign??
86. If elected, what are your two most important goals?
87. How many schools in District 7 have you visited other than your children?
88. Describe your qualifications and experience to provide leadership to our district.
89. What qualifies you to be on the Board?
90. Do any of you believe in nepotism at APS
91. Are you prepared to step up as a role model of student standards of conduct
92. What do you see your role is as board member since board sets policy, hires and fires – how do you expect to affect curriculum
93. Are you willing to be a role model for students?
94. Are you open to splitting up APS
95. Have you ever broken a commitment to those for whom you were professionally responsible?
96. Have you read and do you understand the duties and responsibilities of board members as printed in state statute
97. If you were a legislator, would you have voted for or against the appointment of Hannah Skandera?
98. Do you believe that all candidates be honest with the public
99. What role should charter schools play in the district.
100. What improvements are needed at APS?
101. What is the clear vision you have for APS? What steps will you take to accomplish this vision?
102. What is the biggest problem facing APS today
103. If a large district, like APS, is better, why not unify all of the New Mexico districts into one? If bigger is better?