

Albuquerque Public Schools Questionnaire for Board of Education Candidates

Name: Paula Marie Maes

Length of Residency in School District: 14 years

Occupation: President & CEO of the New Mexico Broadcasters Association; New Mexico Broadcasters Association

Do you currently hold other public office:

Yes. APS Board of Education for the past 8 years.

Are you available to attend Board meetings the first and third Wednesday nights of the month at 5 p.m.?

Yes

Additionally, there are four board committees that meet twice a month at 7:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. or 5 p.m. Are you available to attend committee meetings?

Yes

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

In addition to regularly scheduled meetings, the Board requires approximately ten hours a week in reading, researching, miscellaneous meetings, school visits, telephone calls and email correspondence. Can your schedule accommodate the extra time involved in serving as a Board member?

Yes

Experience

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

My desire to continue to serve on the board of education has not changed over the past 8 years. From the time when I first ran and was elected to the board in 2001, it has been a goal of mine to contribute and be part of the education APS possesses and bestows amongst many young children in Albuquerque. Through my term as a member, my four sons have all attended and graduated from APS. I believe there is nothing more important that we can do for our children than to ensure they have the best education we can provide to help them move forward in life.

2. What is your interest in education?

The best educated children are what we need to assure all of our futures. Only through education are our children able to best serve their families and their communities

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

The way in which I would support the mission of the district is by making sure that as a board member, I would act to the best of my ability and knowledge to acquire the three tasks that are

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required by law. The law states that the board approves a budget that serves the students and employees of APS, creates a policy that provides the best education for our children in a safe environment, and assure a safe environment for our employers to educate our children and finally to hire the best superintendent for APS.

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

For the past eight year I have served on the APS Parents Committee, a variety of school PTAs, and I am the parent of four APS graduates who attended APS their entire academic careers.

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

The strengths of APS are the staffs, students, families, and volunteers who make sure each day that our children are educated, prepared, and excited for the future and a successful life through education. The weaknesses of APS are the negative perceptions of the community towards the school district, the school board, and the way things are being run in the schools throughout the city.

6. What is the role of the Board of Education?

The role of the board of education is to create policy, to approve the budget, and to hire a superintendent.

7. What is the role of individual board members?

The role of individual board members is to do the best of his/her ability to serve the children of APS and work as a whole made up of seven board members to be committed to the well being of the district.

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

The relationship between superintendent and the Board is that the superintendent is the only employee, and it is the responsibility of the Board to allow him/her to lead the district and to not micro manage.

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

The qualities that I possess and would bring to the Board is that I am a proud parent of four APS graduates, and I have the experience as board member, having held a position on the board for eight consecutive years.

10. Other school/community volunteer activities related to the community:

Board member of FOG

Executive committee of the NASBA (National Association of State Broadcast Association)

Member of the National Association of Hispanic Broadcasters

11. What are your thoughts about:

a. No Child Left Behind - This a federal program that was created to improve education, but I feel it does not work and needs to be reconsidered. The federal government must look at a better way in how it can better help states in educating the children all over this country.

b. Closing the achievement gap - The achievement gap has been created due to many factors.

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More children are living in poverty throughout the nation. Some children must live with single mothers, single fathers, grandparents, or have no parents at all, or living with two working parents whom become workaholics. These problems, coupled with funding cuts from the state and federal to our school, lead to our children struggling in caring for their education and thus creating a great achievement gap. We as a school district need to support those who are unable to help themselves enough to get their children in school instead of work or dropping out, and to do as much as possible for all students in providing as much care and interest in education.

c. Parental involvement and community engagement - Parental involvement is one of the most important things we as parents can give to our children, both in and outside family matters. Not all parents are able to do this for their children, that is where community engagement contributes to helping those who for whatever cannot be there to support their children. It takes all of us in the community educate our children, and it is our as Board members duty to see that that goal is met.