



Albuquerque Public Schools Questionnaire for Board of Education Candidates

Date: **January 2011**

Name: **Dr. Analee N. Maestas**

Length of Residency in School District: **59 years**

Occupation: **Executive Director, La Promesa Early Learning Center Charter School**

Do you currently hold other public office? **No**

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

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 10 hours a week in reading, researching, miscellaneous meetings, school visits, telephone calls, and e-mail 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?

I am running for the APS Board of Education because I am passionate about supporting quality education for all students in the Albuquerque Public Schools. I believe I have the background knowledge, and experience to help the largest district in the state soar toward academic excellence and financial stability.

I want to serve on the Albuquerque Board of Education to give something back to the Albuquerque Public School District that provided support to me as a student, teacher, administrator, and parent.

I have worked at the community, school, district, and university level in an effort to impact a positive outcome for children in Albuquerque. I believe this experience provides a strong basis for making education paramount in the Albuquerque Public Schools.

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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 after day.

I want to provide input into our future and that future is the children of our community.

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.

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.

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

The strength of our school district is the highly qualified staff of our schools and support systems.

The weakness of our school district is the communication, parent engagement, and working together with all stakeholders to ensure academic success.

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

Section 22-5-4, NMSA 1978, provides that local school boards shall have the following powers and duties:

A local school board shall have the following powers or duties:

- A. Subject to the regulations of the department, develop educational policies for the school district.
- B. Employ a superintendent of schools for the school district and fix his salary.
- C. Review and approve the school budget.
- D. Acquire, lease and dispose of property.
- E. Have capacity to sue and be sued.
- F. Acquire property by eminent domain as pursuant to the procedures provided in the Eminent Domain Code.
- G. Issue general obligation bonds of the school district.
- H. Provide for the repair of and maintain all property belonging to the school district.
- I. For good cause and upon order of the district court, subpoena witnesses and documents in connection with a hearing concerning any powers or duties of the local school board..
- J. Except for expenditures for salaries, contract for the expenditure of money according to the provisions of the Procurement Code.
- K. Adopt rules pertaining to the administration of all powers or duties of the local school board.

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- L. Accept or reject any charitable gift, grant, devise, or bequest. The particular gift, grant, devise, or bequest accepted shall be considered an asset of the district or the public school to which it is given, and
- M. Offer and, upon compliance with the conditions of such offer, to pay rewards for information leading to the arrest and conviction, or other appropriate disciplinary disposition by the courts or juvenile authorities, of offenders in case of theft, defacement, or destruction of local school district property. All such rewards shall be paid from school district funds in accordance with rules promulgated by the department, and
- N. give prior approval for any educational program in a public school in the school district that is to be conducted, sponsored, carried on or caused to be carried on by a private organization or agency.

7. What is the role of individual board members?

The responsibility of a local school board member is to understand and know what the needs of all our children, both today and tomorrow. A board member should work as a team player in planning, directing and evaluating our educational system on the behalf of all children in the district.

Individual board members should be prepared, honest, open, communicate often with the community and the superintendent to ensure that the needs of children in the district are being met. As an individual board member they cannot speak on behalf of the board unless authorized by the entire board. Board members must use good ethical and moral judgment in all decisions.

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 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 unique 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, Special Education Teacher, Title I Coordinator, Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent, University Faculty, and Executive Vice President for Educational Support for a nonprofit organization.
2. I have spent 59 years living and working in District 1. I know and understand the educational, social, and positive attributes of the community.
3. Educational Experience-I have earned a BS in Elementary Education with an emphasis on Bilingual Education, an MA in Special Education with minor in computer technology, an MA in Remedial Reading, and a Ph.D. in Bilingual Special Education with a minor in Educational Administration.

10. Other school/community volunteer activities 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.

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11. What are your thoughts about:

a. No Child Left Behind – Accountability measures need to be revisited as well as additional funding to implement NCLB requirements at the federal level.

b. Closing the achievement gap –The achievement gap for specific ethnic groups has existed for too long, a serious effort needs to be placed on closing this gap.

c. Parental involvement and community engagement – Parental and community engagement are two of the most critical components of success at any school or district level.

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

Dr. Analee N. Muester 4/7/11