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COMPLETE

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Q1

Candidate Name:

Lacey Hites

Q2

In what municipality (city, town, village) do you live?

Edgewood

Q3

How long have you lived in this municipality?

2.5 years

Q4

Email address

hitesformesd@gmail.com

Q5

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

(505)308-2034

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website

[hitesformesd.com](https://www.hitesformesd.com)

Social Media

[Reach_New_Hites \(instagram\)](#)

Q7

If elected, what would be your first priority as a School Board Member?

If elected as a School Board Member, my first priority is gaining a comprehensive understanding of the responsibilities associated with the position. This includes participating in orientation and training, becoming versed in the intricacies of governance processes, and familiarizing myself with the legal obligations. Reviewing board policies, studying financial reports, and setting personal goals contribute to informed decision-making. Building relationships is equally important. This will involve establishing connections with fellow board members to foster effective collaboration, and engagement with district leadership to understand the overarching vision and challenges facing MESD. Actively connecting with the community, attending public meetings, and visiting schools are imperative for grasping the concerns and aspirations of our diverse stakeholders. To foster trust with the community, I would work to establish transparent communication channels and listen attentively to constituents to understand district goals and guide our strategic priorities. In sum, my initial priorities will be to do the groundwork necessary to ensure effective governance, develop a keen awareness of legal and ethical considerations, and contribute to the enhancement of the educational experience for students within the district through collaboration with other board members and the members of the community.

Q8

What place do you believe parental rights have in our school system?

Parental rights are integral to our school system, starting with the fundamental right to enroll children in public schools or choose alternative options such as private, charter, or homeschooling. Parents are actively encouraged to engage in school activities, having the right to provide or withhold consent for their child's participation in various activities, including field trips, programs, and medical treatments. They also maintain the right to access all their child's records, control information access, and guide their child's religious and moral education, with schools expected to respect diverse beliefs. Additionally, parents can opt their children out of specific classes or activities they find objectionable. Communication with teachers is a recognized right that allows parents to discuss concerns and, in the event of disciplinary actions, parents have due process rights. Ensuring parental involvement, language access, and providing necessary resources and support are essential elements in guaranteeing that children have access to a free and appropriate public education, thus ensuring that our school system effectively serves the interests of our community.

Q9

What would you do to improve student academic outcomes?

Improving student academic outcomes is a complex and collaborative effort that hinges on curriculum, instructional strategies, and data-informed decision-making. Involvement from crucial stakeholders—such as parents, community members, and teachers—is imperative. To foster improvement, the district must focus on retaining high-quality teachers, investing in their professional development, and enhancing classroom practices with integrative technology as a supplement, not a replacement. Dedicated resources should be allocated to support students with special learning needs and promote inclusive education practices, creating a nurturing learning environment. The school's climate and culture must cultivate a sense of belonging through anti-bullying programs, ensuring all students feel safe and ready to learn. Another key strategy involves providing opportunities for experiential learning and real-world application of the curriculum. After-school programs, tutoring, and enrichment experiences can specifically aid students who require additional assistance or face challenges in conventional learning settings. These strategies are proven to positively impact academic outcomes, but still need continuous evaluation and adjustment based on their effectiveness.

Q10

On what principles would you choose the curriculum for our district?

I would choose a curriculum for our district guided by several key principles to cultivate a comprehensive and effective educational experience. Alignment with educational standards ensures that the curriculum meets state and national requirements. Additionally, the curriculum should address the diverse needs of students by embracing inclusivity and culturally responsive practices. A research-based approach is essential, focusing on materials and practices with proven effectiveness. Clear scope and sequence are necessary for a logical learning progression, while flexibility is vital to adapt to diverse teaching styles and evolving student needs. Involving stakeholders such as teachers, parents, and community members ensures a range of perspectives are considered, fostered by community support. Integration of assessment tools and professional development opportunities is crucial to measure progress and equip educators with the necessary skills for successful curriculum implementation. Practical considerations, including cost and resource availability, will also play a role, and adherence to legal and ethical standards is a top priority. These are the principles on which I, as a board member, would contribute to the district's selection of a well-rounded, inclusive, and high-quality educational experience for MESD students through a curriculum that meets students' educational needs, aligns with our educational philosophy, and supports the district's goals.

Q11

What is your opinion on SB 397, the recent law passed regarding school health clinics to be accessible for all New Mexico students at school for universal health, dental, eye, and psychological care?

SB 397 is a good economic investment. As a child in poverty, my parents were unable to afford many of the healthcare needs my siblings and I had. For example, I did not see a dentist for the first time until I was 19. Having these facilities available at school and the costs supplemented by the state removes many of the barriers that prevent students from receiving the health care they need to focus on school and learn effectively.

Q12

What is your opinion on parental notification for all student health concerns?

Effective communication between schools and parents is essential for safeguarding the well-being of students. Timely notifications of student health concerns enable parents to promptly address issues and provide necessary medical attention. Parental involvement is invaluable, offering insights into their child's medical history, allergies, or pre-existing conditions. Additionally, parents have the right to access all student health records. It is the responsibility of the school to inform the parent or guardian of any student with health concerns, as parents must provide consent for their child to receive treatment. Health concerns can impact a child's participation in school and may necessitate accommodations; therefore, the collaboration of an informed parent is critical for developing and implementing educational support strategies.

Q13

Why are you seeking to be a school board member, and what makes you the most qualified person to be elected?

My professional and academic background form a strong foundation for effective service as a school board member. I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology from UNM with a focus on education. I am deeply committed to advanced scholarship and possess a great understanding of sociological perspectives which can offer valuable insights into addressing educational inequalities. With a graduate degree in Higher Education and a wealth of experience in academic research, my work underscores a dedication to creating equitable and inclusive educational environments. Particularly, my roles in overseeing staff and implementing college support programs for first-generation, low-income, and disability-challenged students demonstrate my leadership capabilities. As an instructor, teaching subjects such as financial literacy and academic reading, I have showcased my commitment to international and interdisciplinary education. My diverse educational experiences have equipped me with a unique skill set covering research, program development, cultural competence, academic advising, and leadership—all of which align seamlessly with the multifaceted responsibilities of a school board member. Informed decision-making, understanding diverse needs, and fostering inclusive education are at the core of my capabilities for this role.

Q14

Have you ever been arrested for a felony or misdemeanor crime? If yes, please explain.

No
