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COMPLETE

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**Q1**

Candidate Name:

Michael Hargather

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**Q2**

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

Socorro

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**Q3**

How long have you lived in this municipality?

12 years

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**Q4**

Email address

michael.hargather@nmt.edu

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**Q5**

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

5758355326

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**Q6**

Other Information

Campaign Website

[www.facebook.com/hargather](https://www.facebook.com/hargather)

Social Media

[www.facebook.com/hargather](https://www.facebook.com/hargather)

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**Q7**

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

I want to energize our community engagement with the school district. We need more parent involvement in our student educational process and I want to use the community awareness that an election brings to channel the energy into direct parent involvement with their child's education. I want to keep the District moving in the positive direction that we are. We are starting to observe successes from the administrative stability we have had and we need to continue to work together to grow and improve our district.

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**Q8**

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

Parents are an integral part of our educational process. Parents need to be engaged in their child's education and need to be informed of successes and challenges their children face. We need to make sure we are encouraging parents to be on the same team with the teachers to maximize growth of students.

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**Q9**

What would you do to improve student academic outcomes?

I think assessment is one of the most important parts of growing academic success. We need to actively be engaging with assessment data to understand where our students are succeeding and where they are struggling. We need to reinforce the areas that students need help in. Through assessment and teacher evaluations we can figure out if our teachers need additional training or resources to be able to help students learn those areas.

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**Q10**

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

As a scientist and engineer I look for a curriculum that is science based, meets national standards, and is free from bias. I believe it is important for students to be exposed to diversity and diverse ideas, but based on facts, published data, and supported by national education standards.

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**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?

I believe that access to quality health and mental health care is important for all individuals. Providing the opportunity for students to receive these services at their school sites is a great way to ensure our students are receiving care they need. Schools should be hubs for the community and for student needs, so bringing more services directly onto our school campuses is a positive.

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**Q12**

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

I believe that parents need to be aware of the challenges that their children are facing. It is important that parents support their children and being informed is part of that. There should be appropriate support services offered to parents in addition to their children if there are challenging circumstances that need to be conveyed. I believe we need to care for our children and that parents are a key feature of that care.

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**Q13**

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

I am seeking re-election because I believe I am one of the best qualified individuals to continue leading and supporting our school district. I am an educator and parent, which gives me insight from both directions. I also am a fair and balanced individual when assessing issues or concerns and I believe that makes me best positioned to make positive decisions for our district in an ethical manner. My interest is in the improved success of our students and children, and I am vested in this community toward those changes.

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**Q14**

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

No

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