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Q1

Candidate Name:

Sharon Sessions

Q2

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

Socorro

Q3

How long have you lived in this municipality?

25 years

Q4

Email address

ssessions@socorroschools.org

Q5

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

5758355798

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website

sharonsessions.com

Social Media

facebook: Sharon4Socorro

Q7

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

My first priority is to support the overall well-being of our students, teachers, and staff. This includes support for behavioral health, as well as ensuring families have access to services they need to survive and thrive. The specific strategy for this is expanding and supporting the Community Schools model, and promoting the 100% New Mexico initiative within Socorro County.

Q8

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

Parents working together with teachers, counselors, and administrators to identify and coordinate support for their children would help cultivate connection that would serve the entire community. This would be built on mutual respect with a shared goal of providing the best education and any other support that the student needs. The number one priority is the safety and well-being of the student. Providing parents the opportunity to have input into the child's educational process is essential and an important part of building school relationships.

Q9

What would you do to improve student academic outcomes?

Currently, our school district is participating in a 6-year School Improvement Project through the Cooperative Educational Services (CES) and funded by the NMPED.

CES will conduct an extensive assessment of all programs and practices in our district, and provide a customized strategic plan. This is an incredible opportunity to get unbiased and well-informed feedback and best practices that we can implement in our schools, and will provide a roadmap for improving student academic outcomes. Another important strategy is to cultivate a sense of self-worth and self-confidence in students.

Q10

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

As a returning school board member, I carefully reviewed the process our district used for selecting curriculum. It included consideration of different curriculum reviewed and rated by the NMPED, input from the teachers teaching the material, and parents. I can review best-practices in subject matter I am familiar with (STEM fields), but prefer to rely on the expertise of the folks teaching the material to provide good input in the review process.

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?

This aligns with the Community Schools model, and I strongly support students having access to these services (and more) while at school.

Q12

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

There are cases when teenagers are trying to be responsible but who do not feel safe confiding in parents with specific health concerns. I would support the privacy of the students and respect their efforts to take control of their health.

Q13

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

Education provided opportunities I never dreamed would be available to me. I would love to cultivate a school culture where students feel safe and supported, and where education can provide opportunities they could only imagine.

I grew up in New Mexico and attended New Mexico Tech as a first-generation college student in the 90s. My BS in math and physics prepared me to earn a PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Oregon. I am currently a full professor and the Chair of the Physics Department, and I am the Director of STEM Outreach at New Mexico Tech. I have also served on the Socorro Consolidated School Board since January 2020, and I have a leadership role in the 100% Socorro Initiative. I am dedicated to education and service.

Q14

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

No.
