



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

2021 Albuquerque Public Schools Board Candidates Survey

Q1

Contact Information

Name: Celia Cortez

Q2

Please list your campaign website or other online sources where voters can learn more about you and your positions.

www.CeliaCortezForAPSSchoolBoard.com Celia Cortez (@celiacortezapsschoolboard) • Instagram CeliaCortezForSchoolBoard | Facebook Celia Cortez | LinkedIn <https://www.aps.edu/about-us/board/school-board-member-elections/candidate-questionnaires/district-6-candi>

Q3

What APS district are you running for?

District 6

Q4

As a school board member, what will be your top priority?

I have five goals, however the top priority is student achievements in literacy and math. Students learn to read in the first through third/fourth grades, past this point students are reading to learn. If we fail our students with reading basics we put them at a disadvantage for the rest of their school years.

Q5

When voting on an APS policy, what do you think is the most important thing to consider?

The most important thing to consider in all policy and budget decisions is the impact on student education outcomes.

Q6

What experience do you have in creating budgets and what will you prioritize in the APS budget?

I have over twenty years of managing budgets with several different budget driven, highly competitive private sector, industries. I will prioritize all education money where it will impact student outcomes the most - in the classroom. This will mean teachers have the tools and time needed to teach; this does not necessarily mean computers. Too many children were given computers during COVID yet they didn't have access to WIFI. I will work to ensure all schools that need repairs or updating be done before any administrative buildings are updated.

Q7

Please provide your position on the APS Superintendent's contract being tied to student outcomes and explain why you feel that way.

I feel this is a very reasonable to tie student outcomes, staff turnover, student decline, and budget losses to a superintendents contract. These types of employment measures are part of most careers, education should be no different.

Q8

What factors should play into a decision on closing a school?

With the growth of Albuquerque being on the west side, and the overall declining growth of the population, there may likely may be schools that have closed or consolidated in the SE and NE areas of APS. There would be many factors that would need to be considered before closing a school.

Q9

Do you support or oppose mandating that children are taught Critical Race Theory (CRT)?

Oppose

Q10

What do you think is the most important skill(s) a child should learn in school?

Basic skills of reading, writing and math.

Q11

Should teachers be held accountable for students' academic achievement or lackthereof? Why or why not?

Yes. Every industry, every job hold create ways to make their employees accountable for their jobs; teachers, principals, and all APS staff should be no different. While there can be situations that are out of the control for many employees, these can be taken into account in an evaluation. Many teachers believe this is reasonable as well.

Q12

How should the Capital Master Plan reflect the continuing decline of APS enrollment?

The master plan must plan for the declining populate growth and the continued loss of students that are moving to private, charter or home schools. The priorities should not be on building new schools or new administration buildings. A focus should be placed on the existing schools that have not had needed upgrades to HVAC, AC or roofs. Most properties or land that is currently not being used should be sold off.

Q13

As an APS Board member, please explain your position in regards to involving business community members in advising how best to prepare students for future careers.

During the last seven months, I have spoken with many business owners, retired professionals from many careers, and tradespeople that have offered excellent feedback on they current worker base and what is needed. Many are wanting to partner with APS, offering career introductions and internships for a variety of opportunities.

Q14

Please provide details of any arrest record you may have.

None.

Q15

Please describe to voters why you are best candidate to fill a position on the Board of Education.

I will serve Education not politics! I am not and will not be influenced by a political party, whether Republican or Democrat. I will not allow the special interests of the unions or the administrators of APS to influence my decisions at the expense of the students. Let's meet APS's goals - "career or college ready".