



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

2021 Albuquerque Public Schools Board Candidates Survey

Q1

Contact Information

Name: Jinx

Q2

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

Website: jinxforaps.com, [Facebook.com/jinxforaps](https://www.facebook.com/jinxforaps), Instagram: [jinxforaps](https://www.instagram.com/jinxforaps)

Q3

What APS district are you running for?

District 3

Q4

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

First, I want to eliminate the opportunity gap. We do a disservice to students by not having enough teachers of color and curriculum that embraces the identities of the diverse students we have in Albuquerque. I feel that we are losing a lot of students because when they go to school there is nothing that really grabs them to stay in school if their culture isn't represented the way it should be. We need Native American, African American, Asian Pacific Islander, Chicano and Chicana studies. We need curriculum that reflects LGBTQ students. Also, we have to honor our family engagement policy which focuses on equity and utilizing the histories and cultures of our families as a foundation for education.

Q5

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

We must have the lens and insight from ALL stakeholders; BIPOC, LGBTQ, white, in order to make a policy rich and sustainable. We also must make the policy transparent to the public and in multiple languages.

Q6

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

I was in charge of school site budgets (operational, Title I, Title X, Title XX) at a comprehensive school as well as a schools of choice school which was in the millions for over 13 years and I'm aware of how the budget process works within APS. My priority most importantly, is transparency. When the community is asked to give their opinions around budget issues APS provides an avenue for community voice and decisions around budget. However the transparency I'm talking about is that the community never sees the outcome to the answers they filled out through survey questions. All they see is the data around how many people filled out the surveys. The answers to the questions are not given back to the community so they can see how others felt around the budget. We are just told that community input was part of the draft of the budget. I don't feel this is being transparent.

Q7

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

I think the Superintendent should be held accountable the same way principals and teachers are held accountable through their evaluation system which is tied to student outcomes. The Superintendent has a responsibility to answer to the community he/she serves which are families that have their children in the schools and trust their quality of education to the person who oversees the running of the school district which is the Superintendent.

Q8

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

Just like we must look at the whole child when determining how to best serve the students, the same goes for a school. Let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. We must see what is going on in the school by spending time there, interviewing staff, students, teachers, families etc. What is the philosophy of the school, is it reflective of the community? Are there ways to turn it around and make it successful? All this must be looked into.

Q9

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

Other (please specify):

CRT is not a curriculum but a conversation around institutional racism and how it plays a part in our history as well as today. I'm for conversations within classrooms around CRT as well as engaging our youth and adults in Anti-Racism trainings which is what CRT is all about.

Q10

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

Social skills;
Communication skills; or
Basic skills of reading, writing and math.
Other (please specify):

All of the above and more. Students need a well-rounded education. In addition to the skills listed here, civic engagement, financial literacy, critical thinking, trades, multiculturalism, and internships in businesses and community-based organizations are very important.

Q11

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

I think teachers should have accountability for students academic achievement. They are the ones that work most closely with students while at school. With that said, teachers are not the end all to a child's progress or lack of so the accountability should not just fall on them.

Q12

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

Since funding follows the student, a decline in enrollment means a decline in the overall budget. With less money going towards less students I believe we need to prioritize making our basic infrastructure, such as our HVAC systems safe for all. I would also prioritize putting our resources into the schools where the need is the greatest, and increasing the capacities of students and families and access to educational services in our poorest neighborhoods.

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.

It's so important for the business community to be part of the input into how APS is operating. The business community will be employing our students (in many cases they are already employing our students) so our educational system needs to align with the business community.

Q14

Please provide details of any arrest record you may have.

I have never been arrested.

Q15

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

My undergraduate degree is in Special Education and I have a masters degree in Educational leadership. I have over 25 years experience in APS. I was a teacher at Rio Grande HS, Alb High, and New Futures, a school for pregnant and parenting youth. After I received my Masters I went to Alb. High as the Asst. Principal over curriculum and then went back to New Futures as the principal until I retired in 2020. My years at APS gives me valuable insight to draw on as a board member and I put 4 children through APS. I also have a strong track record of partnering with community members and organizations to improve academic achievement and the overall well-being of my students.