



NEW MEXICO BUSINESS COALITION

2021 Albuquerque Public Schools Board Candidates Survey

Name: Courtney Jackson

Q2

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

Website - www.CourtneyJackson4APS.com Facebook - Courtney Jackson for APS Board of Education District 7

Q3

What APS district are you running for?

District 7

Q4

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

My top priority will be student learning. The board needs to provide clear guidance on policy directives, including measurable goals that are data driven, so that the superintendent can manage the directives and staff effectively to ensure our students are successfully educated.

Q5

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

The most important thing to consider is our students and the impact the policy will have on their education. My goal will always be to create policy that is student-driven and improves student outcomes.

Q6

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

I will prioritize student learning and transparency in all APS budget decisions. The APS budget belongs to the taxpayers and they deserve to know how and where it is being spent. When corrupt politicians steal from our students, and it takes years before it is noticed, that is a dereliction of duty. Second, we need to shift funding away from the bureaucracy and put it back to the classroom. It is not okay that teachers have to pay for their own supplies. We need to fund from the classrooms up instead of the bloated bureaucracy down. And finally, APS is receiving an additional \$230 million over the next three years in addition to the 1.8 billion dollar budget. That money needs to be allocated using strategy and need based assessments. To have this additional funding is an opportunity, but if it is wasted on bureaucracy and useless programs, our children's education will continue to suffer.

Q7

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

I believe that the Superintendent should be held accountable for academic improvement and would support a contract that includes a variety of performance metrics, including student learning.

Q8

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

Closing a school is a dramatic decision, one that can have long term impacts if not done with respect to the community. The closure of a school should never be a surprise, but rather a last resort after a variety of other tiers of support and intervention have failed.

Q9

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

Public schools should serve as an institution that provides a positive vision of citizenship for the country in which we live, and with the challenges we face now, it is more important than ever to put our kids in an environment in which they are brought together and not divided.

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):

Critical thinking. We need to teach our students not just to memorize facts and figures, but to engage in their learning through deep thinking, inquiry and personal development. It is important that as our students master literacy and numeracy skills, they also learn critical thinking. The best instruction combines both.

Q11

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

It is important to acknowledge that the most important in school factor to a student's learning is the teacher at the front of the classroom. We need to ensure our educators are evaluated through a variety of inputs and outcomes, and that they are supported with personalized professional development aligned to their strengths and weaknesses so that every educator is prepared to be the teacher our students need.

Q12

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

It is critical that as enrollment declines the board is hyper-strategic about the Capital Master Plan. While the district has many facilities in need of improvement, new buildings should be considered very carefully. APS has built a ton of new buildings recently that are not for student use. In the future, we should make sure the funds are spent on facilities that directly benefit students.

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.

The business community is an important stakeholder in our schools. The board should consider them as such and use them to build the districts career readiness programs.

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 am the best candidate to fill this position for several reasons. My children attend APS and I want to ensure that needs of our school children come first, ahead of politics. I excel at organizational management and working with a team to achieve common goals. I have a history of board leadership which gives me the skillset needed to set policy and strategically plan for long term goals. My desire to sit on the School Board is to improve our education system for every child and not as a stepping-stone for another political position.