

#33

COMPLETE

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Page 1

Q1

Candidate Name:

Michelle I. Osowski

Q2

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

Los Lunas

Q3

How long have you lived in this municipality?

22 years

Q4

Email address

michelleosowski@gmail.com

Q5

Phone number for voters to reach out to you

555 555 5555

Q6

Other Information

Campaign Website **N/A**

Social Media **N/A**

Q7

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

Evaluate the newly adopted 700+ pages of Board of Education policies and procedures adopted April 2023 for consistency and equity across all stakeholders. Also a top priority is to reinstate policies that restore BOE oversight of district expenditures in excess of \$5,000 or involve out-of-state travel for all stakeholders.

Q8

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

If the question is asking, 'where should parents be allowed to participate in their child's school?', my response is 'parental participation should be encouraged and allowed when decisions about their child need to be made.' In other words, if a student needs academic, behavior, or social/emotional intervention or support, the student's parents should be at the table and involved in the decisions. If the question is asking, 'do parents have a right to be involved in all decisions in the school system?' my response is "no, parents do not have a 'right' to be involved in all decisions in a school system". Specifically, parents represent one perspective and they may introduce bias or prejudicial perspectives that are not in alignment with the intent of public school. In my opinion, the final decision about what is taught belongs to Congress or the state legislature (as they are the properly elected representatives of all citizens), and how it is taught or structured belongs to the superintendent, by law, and for good reason. There are legal and financial consequences the public will pay for—in one way or another—when students receive poor or inadequate instruction or are not properly supervised and their safety ensured. A judge or jury cannot prosecute a committee; one person must be accountable and in NM that person is the superintendent.

Q9

What would you do to improve student academic outcomes?

Seriously evaluate many of the practices that have dominated the instructional and learning environment. Too many new instructional and learning practices were introduced during the pandemic without proper vetting (e.g., evaluating the findings in academic and peer-reviewed research).

Q10

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

All adopted curricula must first meet federal guidelines to maintain the flow of federal or state funds (the district could not function without federal or state funds). Then, the strategies used to deliver and assess student progress in the curricula must be research based and well-vetted in the academic research. Finally, the curriculum must contain the most current information; it cannot represent a portion of the current knowledge if we are truly to prepare students for a global economy.

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?

My opinion is mixed: I appreciate that NM is leading the nation in providing access to health care, including mental health, on an as-needed basis. Too many NM students do not get the medical care they need to be high-functioning students at school. However, as a parent I am still concerned that the law excludes a vital partner in a student's growth and development: Their parent or guardian. I don't have the answer and believe there needs to be diligent monitoring of services delivered and outcomes to understand the true impacts of this law.

Q12

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

This is tricky: In my 33+ years of experience I noted that students who had trusting and appropriate relationships with their parents did not need the school system to intervene for their health concerns. On the other hand, students without healthy relationships with their parents DID need intervention, and many of those interventions were involved. Those students counted on a school official to provide for them because their parents couldn't--or wouldn't--speak or provide for them. Again, this is tricky. How does a law help a school official determine which students they need to provide for and which students will receive more targeted care under the direction of their parent or guardian? This is a no-win situation for all stakeholders but maintaining the status quo of NOT providing for ANY healthcare does not work--and it has not worked--for many students throughout the year.

Q13

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

Our district has had about a decade of political strife and dysfunction which has cost the district, i.e., the taxpayers and ultimately the students. It's time to focus on what is important: Teaching and learning.

Q14

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

No and no.
