

Name: Barbara Petersen

District: Albuquerque

Position: 4

Please answer the following to the best of your ability within 150 words or less.

1. What is motivating you to run for the school board?

In 35 years of teaching, I cared about my students, their learning, and my professional practice, and also the policies that impacted them. I was always an active advocate for public schools. In my first term, I have chaired the Equity and Engagement, then the Policy and Instruction Committees. I have actively served and become an NMSBA Master Board Member. I also experienced APS as a parent and know the importance of the family/school relationship.

2. What will your priorities be as a school board member?

District 4 is home to many indigenous residents of this continent, newcomer refugees from all continents, older, well-established neighborhoods, and economically struggling neighborhoods. We are rich with diversity of cultures, languages, talents and experiences. Educationally, that means dual language programs, newcomer supports, programs that give academic support and respect each child. ALL students need art, music, engaging opportunities. Community Schools build on strengths and meet needs.

3. What have you done in the past to help your community thrive?

I was a dedicated teacher for 35 years and have long been involved in neighborhood and community. I have frequently been in Santa Fe and advocated for students, families and educators through the Teachers Federation.

4. How have you previously advocated for students and educators in your community?

That has been the guiding force of my work as an educator, parent, and now as a board member.

5. How did your educational experiences shape you, and what lessons will you take with you from those experiences?

As a teacher, I gained insight into how children learn. As a parent, I learned the importance of the relationship between student, teacher, school, and family.

6. Have you ever worked as an employee in public education? If so, how did your school board affect you? What lessons will you take from your experience into this position?

I taught as an APS educator for 35 years.

7. New Mexico has the lowest high school graduation rate in the nation. What specific steps will you take to address this problem?

Implementation of the Academic Master Plan is a comprehensive way to address student outcomes.

8. New Mexico ranks 49th in 4th-grade reading and math scores. What specific steps will you take to address this problem?

The framework developed for Los Padillas, Hawthorne and Whittier Elementary Schools are effective – extended learning opportunities, development of the community school, a focus on professional growth and practice means a committed investment in the school that is of great benefit.

9. How will you advocate for both the students and the employees of the public education system in your role?

Effective communication, opportunities for public voice, and then developing policies and a budget that reflect those needs – that is what I have done in my first term.

10. Think New Mexico, a non-partisan think tank, released a study in 2017 which suggests that the percentage of a state's education budget that makes it to the classroom, as opposed to administrative costs, is related to student performance. Do you agree? Will you advocate for an increased percentage of the budget going to the classroom? Why or why not? If so, how will you address the issue?

Their information was inaccurately analyzed. It is true that 67% of the APS budget goes directly into the classroom. However, it is absolutely inaccurate to interpret that as "bloated administration." Roughly another >20% goes to direct student services – librarians, nurses, speech and language pathologists, counselors, social workers, and so on, as well as maintenance and operations, custodians, cafeteria workers and bus drivers make up . In fact, 0.8% of the budget goes to leadership and less than 10 % goes to human resources, finance and all the other administrative necessities. APS has one of the lowest administrative overhead rates in the state, of any entity.

11. New Mexico is combatting a "teacher shortage." A recent study by NMSU said New Mexico's "teacher attractiveness score"* is 2.18 on a scale of one to five. What will you do to increase this score and make sure these vacancies are filled by qualified individuals as quickly as possible?

The removal of the "Value-Added-Model" use of test scores from the teacher evaluation system and a significant salary increase for the first time in 10 years will be helpful in recruiting and retaining.

The district's mentorship program in partnership with the Albuquerque Teachers Federation, the pathways partnership with CNM and residency program with UNM and the ATF are actively developing our new educators.

12. How can you make your school board an example of excellence for the other boards in the state?

We already are. APS leads the way in developing a publicly accessible dashboard and transparency. The advantage of size allows APS to research, develop and lead.

**According to [NMSU](#) "Teacher Attractiveness Score" takes into consideration compensation, working conditions, teacher qualifications, and teacher turnover.*