

Name: Bill Delaney

District: Deming

Position: 1

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?

I have a child that attends that attends Deming Public Schools (DPS) and would like to see all children in our school district given every opportunity to succeed and thrive.

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

If elected to the DPS board, my top priorities would include focusing more money on classrooms and less on administration. I would ensure alignment of curriculum with core standards and national best practices backed by the highest level evidence.

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

I have a long history of community service. I served our nation in the United States Marine Corps in both foreign and domestic mission. During my service, I enjoyed volunteering with students on the weekend in Japan. Following my honorable discharge from active service, I served in Deming, NM as an Americorp volunteer working in the local behavioral health clinic to fill gaps in transportation and access to resources. As a community member, I actively volunteer time and resources to various organizations in the community.

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

As an Occupational Therapist working in an outpatient clinic, I have worked with students and parents in order to educate and advocate for services and modifications in order to achieve the best outcomes for the student.

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

I have had a wide variety of educational experiences including vocational training in public schools, military and private sector. I have also obtained my Masters Degree in Occupational Therapy. I have had the pleasure of obtaining my academic education from Western New Mexico University and the University of New Mexico.

My educational experiences have allowed me to recognize the importance of both academic and vocational education. Deming Public Schools has great vocational training. I would like to ensure our vocational programs are continued to be supported and expanded to encompass new fields in a sustainable way. I would also like to see the academic offerings of Deming Public Schools expanded to allow for ease of transition between high school and college.

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?

On several occasions, I have taken on contract positions with the Gear Up project administered through WNMU in order to give Deming children a taste of college and college credits while attending the program. I have also completed fieldwork experiences as a masters student at UNM with experience with Deming Public School occupational therapy team and a more extensive experience in early intervention setting working with children and their families whom exhibited developmental delays. These experiences showed me that process with educating parents and getting what is needed for children across the education system can run against bureaucratic barriers. Additional resources and parental education should be provided in order to identify and assist children in need of additional resources.

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

Our teachers are working hard within the system in order to assist children with completing their course work and keep them on track for graduation. Factors including poverty, housing, and food insecurity affect our graduation rate in Deming. The Deming Public Schools also has a significant portion of the population with immediate families that are restricted from crossing the US border. While this last factor does not account for the entire deficit it impact students ability to stay on track, these students face multiple hours per day going through customs and taking transportation to and from school. Another factor that has influenced graduation rates in relation to our local issues is the perceived or real need for students to contribute to the finances of their family. The schools may have the ability to assist in the financial needs while keeping the students on track for graduation. We can seek out opportunities for paid internships/ fieldwork experiences that bolster our vocational programs and allow students to earn credits at the same time.

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

The Deming Public School Board would be able to address deficits in reading and math scores in the lower grades with a multipronged approach. First, is put books into the hands of parents and children by teaming up with organizations that are tackling this issue including Dolly Parton Reading Imagination Library. These reading resources need to be in both Spanish and English. Next, would be to educate parents and caregivers on the importance of reading and math to their children.

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

If elected as a school board member, I will advocate for children and teachers by ensuring a sustainable budget that pushes as much funding as possible to the classrooms. I would also like

the board to be more receptive to students and teachers and attempt to implement ideas present and agreed upon by the board through policy and powers of the board. I would also like measurable and timely objectives for the school superintendent in order to ensure progress for our schools.

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?

I agree that the larger percentage of the school budget that is going to the classrooms and educational opportunities for our students will result in better outcomes for our children. Within this dollar amount the salaries and benefits of teachers, educational aides and direct service personnel need to be considered in this as better incomes and benefits will attract and inspire teachers to deliver the highest level of education to our children. Supplies, curriculum materials, and expanded educational opportunities for both students in staff should be considered in this percentage. This will allow students to receive the most current evidence based educational interventions in order to achieve optimal outcomes. As a board member, I would take a zero based budgeting approach in order to ensure the highest dollar amount is going towards our classrooms.

11. New Mexico is combating 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?

As a Rehabilitation Director at the local hospital, I am responsible for attracting, hiring and retaining rehabilitation professionals with secondary and post secondary degrees to our facility. I know that several factors feed into our ability to recruit and retain including salary and benefits, local amenities, housing, and opportunities for personal and professional growth. As a school board member, the main factors we will be able to change for purposes of recruitment and retaining employees are salaries, benefits and expanding opportunities for advancing education and careers. The school board can also use the schools' position as one of the largest local employers to improve local amenities and housing options for teachers.

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

If elected to Deming Public School Board, I will use my leadership skills to enhance communication with the board, students, teachers and staff by developing a cohesive team that is willing to listen, adapt, and make tough thoughtful changes for the betterment of our schools. I will influence our school board to take on best practices of school board as laid out by New Mexico School Board Association.

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