

Name: Cheryl George
District: Central Consolidated
Position: 3

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?

Accountability, Transparency, Quality Instruction of proficiency for students in: Reading, Math and Language Arts for student achievement. District leadership and communication with staff and stakeholders and community.

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

To ensure the superintendent is accountable for all functions of school district, Financial Funds & Grants are transparent. Stakeholders and students, staff are informed of district School Health Advisory Committee, Parent Advisory Committee, Education Expenses and Data of proficiency of schools report card.

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

I have collaborated with our community. Coalitions providing youth conferences open to family and community. I have collaborated with our local community of NM Certified Auricular Detoxification Specialist providing Acudetox.

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

CCSD is composed of 90% of Navajo Students and when serving on CCSD Board advocated for compliance of NM American Education Act. Advocated for Students with Special Needs to ensure compliance of all applicable Federal and State Mandates in serving Students with a Disability. Raised the continuing concerns of Teacher Turnover Rate due to Low Morale with CCSD Administration. Advocated Employee Grievance Rights despite opposition from other Board Members and Administration per New Mexico Law.

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

I have advocated for students wellness through the (SHAC) Student Health Advisory Committee, School Safety Plans, CPI Instructor, and Staff /Teacher wellness. I have advocated for Civility and Professional leadership of School Board, Director's, Coordinators, and Administration for work place bullying cessation among teachers and staff that would ultimately affect staff morale and therefore, our students are impacted in the classroom.

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?

Yes. I have worked as a school employee for CCSD. Our school board affected me negatively due to lack or disregard for professional civility and holding the superintendent accountable for district administration of professional civility. The lesson I will take is we need to have parent, stakeholders and community participation at Board, PAC and SHAC meetings and PTCs.

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

2018 less than one-third of students met ACT math benchmark or grade-level math proficiency and reading ELA scores are well under graduation rate. Steps for improvement interventions to improve student and school performance in our community. Disparities are a major factor in vulnerable population. Trauma Informed schools and professional staff training and collaborative efforts to address ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) to include our students with disability proficiency curriculum.

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

The issue is redirected to #7 answer with academic proficiency for reading and math scores.

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

Student & Staff Wellness, Resources for teachers to effectively teach without reaching in their own pocketbook or asking for help from parents. Transparency to ensure responsible to the board for all functions of the school district.

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?

The State's Education Budget percentage will need to be increased going to the classroom. The impact of educational materials for students is impact on some families that struggle to provide their students with school supplies, classroom supplies requested by schools.

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?

Encourage our high school students to seek a career in education. As the Educators Rising programs with UNM & NMSU. Teacher Salaries are low and the remote locations of schools especially on the Navajo Reservation. Teacher loan repayment and scholarships are incentives to attract and retain teachers.

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

It takes a community to raise our children. This involves participation from parents the stakeholders, students, staff, and community to be the advocate of their children education process and safety and whole child wellness from early childhood to K-12. To be an example of excellence we need a Culture of Excellence that permeates every classroom, department, and school.

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