

Albany Board of Education Questionnaire

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Website: under construction

Current occupation: Job Developer

1. Please briefly summarize your background, qualifications, and reasons for wanting to serve on the Albany Unified School District Board of Education.

I currently serve as the Site Council President at Marin Elementary School I have done for the past two years, I am also an active member of the PTA. I was a founding member of the ACT group which was formed in Albany to help with the issue of diversity and community involvement for all students. I also currently serve as the Vice President of the Black parent Engagement group which was formed to help students of color and their families. My career has always driven me to help people currently serve as a job developer and recruiter helping people find full-time employment. I want to run for school board because i have a wealth of experience that I think would be a great help in tackling issues such as overcrowding, diversity, the overall job of teachers and the well being of our students. I am a former Albany High Student and the son of a retired teacher. I have a great understanding of what it takes to help our students prepare for today's world!!

2. What ideas do you have for addressing overcrowding in Albany schools? How can we protect class size reduction for all levels? What are your views on inter-district transfers and what priority do you feel should be given to children of teachers and other district employees who live outside of Albany?

I know that overcrowding is an issue that needs to be looked at from all angles, speaking with the teachers and working out a plan that will benefit everyone involved. Small classroom size is essential to the ideal environment for student success. In order for teachers and district employees to be successful, we need to make sure they do not have to stress about their own children. We need to make sure they feel confident that the district they work so hard for supports them.

3. How can the district best serve the needs of our diverse range of students, some of whom are ready for AP or honors classes, some of whom are not college bound, and some of whom have disabilities or other difficulties that can make learning a challenge?

We need to have programs in place for each level, also the understanding of these programs and the educational paths of each student need to be clear and supported on all levels. We need to have people in place that can understand what it means to work with people from diverse backgrounds and help them to navigate the educational system successfully.

4. How should the district balance the need to attract and retain high-quality teachers by offering a competitive salary, security and health benefits with the need for enhanced programming for students?

It's important to bring in quality teachers but we need to make sure that we have students needs at the forefront Recruiting is something that I do very well so finding high-quality teachers is something I can advise on. There is a balance and with myself, on the board, I will be able to work with my fellow members to find that balance.

5. What is your vision for Albany's 21st-century schools and how would you as a Board of Education member assist the transition of AUSD towards a 21st-century model?

The future is coming and we need to be prepared for it. The future of our students and their success depends pon our ability to embrace it. I am optimistic that as a board member I can lead the district into the 21st Century.

6. Three-part question on alternative instructional approaches:

a. What alternative instructional programs do you support (e.g., "blended" curriculums, flexible and open learning environments, technology-based learning, and project-based learning? What is your understanding of these instructional methods?

b. Are there other changes in the current schedule, such as a later start time, for which you would advocate, and, if so, what is your reasoning for supporting these changes?

I like the schedule the way it is currently set up

c. Are you familiar with the Khan Academy (<http://www.khanacademy.org/>) and what is your view regarding the role of this type of resource in Albany?

I like the concept but would have to do more research and make sure that it would be beneficial for our students.

7. Who has endorsed you or is supporting your candidacy?

The current Mayor of Albany

The ATA

Marge Atkinson

8. The following are the 10 Key Values of the Green Party (more details available at <http://www.cagreens.org/platform/10k.shtml>). In view of these values, why do you feel your candidacy merits Green Party endorsement?

Green Party 10 Key Values:

1) Ecological wisdom

2) Social Justice

3) Non-violence

4) Grassroots democracy

5) Decentralization

- 6) Community-based economics
- 7) Feminism
- 8) Respect for diversity
- 9) Personal and global responsibility
- 10) Sustainability