



Austin Succeeds AISD School Board Candidate Questionnaire

Leadership & Governance

1. What perspectives or experiences do you bring to the school board and what is your broader vision for the district? ***My background in AISD is a lengthy one that goes back over 20 years when I was on the Campus Advisory Council at my child's School (Rodriguez Elementary). From there, I have served or continue to serve on many District Committees such as: District Advisory Council (Currently serve as Co-Chair), Budget and Finance (Served as Co-Chair), Boundary (Served as Co-Chair), Bond Advisory (2012), Strategic Plan, Teacher Compensation (REACH) and some special Committees which were needed to address current issues such as but not all inclusive: Budget Stabilization Task Force, Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools (Served as Tri-Chair)***

2. How long have you been in the Austin ISD community and what is your history in advocating for changes or improvements in the district? ***For over 20 years, I have served on many Committees within AISD which benefits student success along with Neighborhoods.***

3. Describe how you see the current relationship between the board and these key stakeholders and how should it change, if at all:
 - a. Superintendent
 - b. Teachers
 - c. Families/community
 - d. Other board members

Things with the current board are in a transitional state. With a new Superintendent on board, there is a learning curve to be achieved in order to maintain and exceed the level of success we want for all children. In short, there is a collaboration between all stakeholders as we work to achieve student success for all children in AISD.



4. Define educational and racial equity. How will you use an equity lens in your policy decision-making? ***Educational Equity is ensuring all children are receiving the resources and support needed to be successful. Racial equity is ensuring the same as it doesn't discriminate against race, creed, or socioeconomic status. I will continue to ensure that "all means all" which ensures all voices are heard and are part of the solutions to making our children successful.***

5. One of the major responsibilities of being a Trustee involves approving the budget. What are your current thoughts on how the budget is allocated and how would you change it, if at all, to support the students who need resources the most? How would you determine the best way to allocate resources? ***Because a part of AISD Budget is tied to Recapture, and a large portion to Salaries (around 80%), the amount remaining is not a lot to work with. AISD needs to continue doing a great job in managing its budget and making sure that we are allocating those resources where needed. This is especially for Special Education as well.***

6. What metrics should we be looking at to determine student and district success and to guide the policy decisions that the Austin ISD board makes? ***We should be looking at disciplinary rates and attendance because if students aren't in school, we can't teach them and if they are being disruptive while in school, they aren't learning***

Policymaking

7. What are your thoughts on Austin ISD's current pandemic plan regarding student learning and a potential return to in-person instruction? What, if any, changes need to be made to ensure that distance learning better meets the needs of all students and that students, teachers, and staff are safe when in-person instruction resumes? ***We need to continue to provide resources for all such that their learning is not impeded. There have been actions already but we need to have resources also in place to maintain these initiatives***



8. School closures are a contentious issue. What does your decision-making process look like for making impactful decisions and how would you go about deciding on future school changes? ***Although no one likes to have their neighborhood school closed, if there aren't enough children to fill it, we need to look at other way to utilize that facility. And first and foremost, this takes input from the Neighborhood as to alternatives provided. We need to look at boundaries or other alternatives to filling our schools up and balancing the load across the district.***

9. Which policies do you support to improve diverse teacher recruitment, retention, and compensation in Austin ISD and how would you reward and retain teachers who demonstrate their proficiency in the classroom? ***Serving on the Teacher Compensation Committee, It has taken great steps going forward to providing incentives to teacher recruitment, retention, and compensation. We aren't losing as many teachers due to the opportunities provided with this.***

10. What is your background and knowledge of the complexities of special populations of students in Austin ISD and what programs/policies do you support to serve these students? ***As a district, we have a population of Special Needs students which needs those additions services and resources available. We need to ensure the budget for the district continues to provide in that manner and also that we have programs and resources readily available for those students.***

11. From a policy perspective, how would you leverage SB1882 and HB3 to benefit Austin ISD? ***SB 1882 does provide a doorway in which charters can come into our district. And although I am against charters in Public Schools, it is still within the District control to deny entry to those charter schools within our District. As a District, we can partner with other organizations to aid in those schools which may be struggling and need that extra assistance,***