

Responses cannot be edited

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Community Led School Board

Questionnaire

This questionnaire was put together by a coalition of non-partisan, non-profit organizations seeking to provide the community with an opportunity to meet, engage and learn from all school board candidates. All candidates running for Denver Public School Board and Aurora Public School Board are being sent the questionnaire on the same date with two weeks to submit their responses.

The questionnaire was put together by Inspire Colorado, YAASPA, and Padres y Jóvenes Unidos.

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In a few sentences, describe your vision for the students and families you desire to serve.

The vision for the students and families is the same one I have for my children and family. Each child, not matter where they live, how they learn, or what zip code they reside in, has the same opportunity and access to a great education. Parents are respected and seen as a partner and ally in their child's education.

In your opinion, what top two changes should be made on a state and local level regarding public education?

1. Increase per pupil funding. 2. All district neighborhood schools work to equitably serve their students.

If you are elected to the school board, how will you ensure there is progress toward racial equity for students of color?

Progressively working toward racial equity requires access to information for parents and students. Creating an equity task force to take a deeper dive into the issues that students, community and parents are concerned about. Then use the information to work with the district, parents, communities and students to find intentional solutions.

What do you think needs to be done to increase access to programs like ASCENT and concurrent enrollment for students of color and lower income students?

To increase access to schools providing the ASCENT program would require more funding so that all high schools in APS are able to support this program.

How does your school district need to improve in its process of ensuring all students graduate ready for college/career?

Access to equitable support for students that require more assistance such as tutoring, smaller class sizes, variety of Advance Placement classes, honor classes, wrap around services and student leadership programs. Also utilizing Check and Connect mentor program that is available for students that need extra support to graduate.

How would you determine top budget priorities?

The top budget priority would be heavily related to student growth, such hiring more teachers and targeted support for students.

How would you advocate for adequate and equitable funding for your district on a state and local level?

As a board member, I would create a connections with organizations that are currently working at the policy level to advocate for increasing educational funding. Colorado Education Network is a network that is creating a movement to bring light to the barriers that schools are facing and have been facing for several decades. Encouraging parents to join organizations so they are better informed would also help create advocates in communities.

What role do you believe families and students should play in implementing district and school policies?

Family and student voices are key to implementing policy. They should have an active role in the hiring of teachers and principals. As a school board member, I will hold community voice sessions for parents and community to give input on district issues such as career/college readiness, behavior and discipline, special education, advanced academics and social and emotional needs.

How would you work with schools to address the school-to-prison pipeline?

The school to prison pipeline does exist and has been well documented. Acknowledging that there is a problem and having meaningful dialogue over the policing in schools needs to be an ongoing conversation. As a board member, creating a safe space for parents, students and teachers to talk about intentional solutions. Invite outside agencies that are involved in this work as well as community to take a closer look at root causes and create positive pipeline with businesses, non profits, organizations to develop more mentorship programs.

What is your position on charter schools?

Charter schools are public schools and need to abide by the same rules and regulations of district public schools.

What steps would you take to ensure that the district curriculum be culturally responsive to the needs of students of color at all grade levels?

It is important to have curriculum that has diverse information and history that is representative of the population. As a school board member, I would work with the curriculum steering committee to make that a top priority to focus on culturally responsive instruction. Children are much more engaged when they see themselves, read about themselves and learn about themselves in school. Be mindful that not all children are the same or learn the same. Each child comes to school with a different set of needs, skills and cultural backgrounds, which necessitates instruction and assessment at student's language and development level. Using programs that are available to students such as the Welcome Center and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Center are great resources.

What would you do to hire and retain more teachers of color?

Connect with culturally diverse institutions and create a hiring pipeline from those school and programs. Creating intentional and targeted outreach to programs that have established proven recruitment efforts is one opportunity that would garner results.

Do you support the establishment of Haven Schools in accordance with the Safe and Welcoming School District Resolution adopted by the School Board?

I am not aware of this program but if this creates a space of safety for students and community, then I do support Haven Schools.