

Responses cannot be edited

# Jane F. Barber

## 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.

My vision is to educate the whole student which includes life 101, arts and music , and physical education plus reading, arithmetic, social studies (including social awareness plus emotional intelligence) history and geography. I see the parents and community involved .I see the school employees listening to the students who have really good ideas.

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

1.Less testing and more teaching. 2.Adequate funding by ridding Colorado of Tabor and Gallagher and fully funding Amendment 23.

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

As a board member ,I would listen to the students and hear what they have to say. I would be in the schools and learn where the iniquity exists and to work from there. I love that we have a group of students (YAASPA) who want to hear from the Board candidates.

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?

Perhaps a forum from students of color who have taken advantage of these opportunities. Counselors who are not so overworked who can let our students know of ASCENT and concurrent enrollment. I would think that there is information in the schools that does not exclude any student. .

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

We need to make sure that the students know the information before they can move on. We cannot let them just take up seat space and at the end of the year promote them to the next grade level. the students need to prove they know what the teachers are teaching.

How would you determine top budget priorities?

Anything that involves the students is top of the list. If it improves their ability to learn then it should be funded. That being said, we need to make sure the schools are clean and well-maintained so that they know we care about the students and their health and well being.

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

As I have said before we need to get rid of Tabor and Gallagher. To do this we need to lean on our legislators to fix this system. I can't believe the State of Colorado has been held in bondage because of these two issues. We need to get them out of our constitution. And the people who can do that are the legislators. I am willing to testify and write letters as must our parents and children.

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

The students and parents are welcome to let their needs be known to any school board member. They can talk with or write to any BOE member. They do not have to go through the Administration or the superintendent to be heard. When I was on the BOE several years ago I thoroughly enjoyed hearing from the students and their perspectives.

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

Discipline should match the infraction. We do not have to call in the police for every little thing. Restorative justice works sometimes and sometimes not. I do think that if a child does something they know is wrong, there must be some sort of discipline. But that discipline should be the same no matter the color of your skin.

What is your position on charter schools?

I believe that charter schools should be held to the same accountability as public schools. I do think that charter schools play a role for certain populations such as Legacy which helps young mothers. I do not think it is right for charter schools to waiver out of standards that Public schools have to adhere to. SB191 is one of the mandates they can waiver out of which has really caused hardship on traditional 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?

I think true history should be taught, we need to teach about all the oppression in the U.S. then and now. The district needs to learn about the culture that our immigrants and refugees are bringing into our schools. Our nutrition services are aware of certain restrictions our children have and make sure we address these issues. Maybe the parents need to know they need to educate us. Teachers are empathetic to the needs of students and can help where and when they can, but they need to be educated as well. I know full well how uniquely diverse our district is and that we need to support that uniqueness.

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

We need to offer tuition money to APS students of color who want to teach that will be forgiven if they teach in our schools. HR needs to visit colleges where they have students of color to hire. APS along with other districts in Colorado need to offer a fair and living wage to teachers. The students, the parents and the community need to respect and honor our teachers.

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

Students and parents should know their children are safe in our schools. I have read the resolution several times, I do support that children are and will be our first priority.