



School Board Questions

Video Response

1. What experiences and/or skills have prepared you to serve on the Governing Board?
2. What differentiates you from other candidates and/or current Board members?
3. What do you see as the primary work of the Board of Education?

Written Response

1. What are the major issues you see facing Tempe Union schools? What would you do to address these?

The current concern for me is the need to develop educational opportunities for students, outside required curriculum, that provides mentorship and classroom resources with community leaders in career and technical education.

As a board member, I spent the last 2 years focusing on building relationships with businesses and organizations in our community. I've led tours of our campuses with City council members, business executives and chamber representatives because once people see what we're doing at Tempe Union they often want to get involved. That's what we need.

The partnerships I've helped to develop with everyone from Intel to Steve's Espresso to the Arizona Coyotes, allows students to learn from industry leaders. These partnerships also provide resources for our classrooms in terms of capital and mentors. For example, Intel not only invests financially within Tempe Union, but they send a lead engineer who serves in our classrooms twice a week as a teaching assistant. We need more partnerships in all of our classrooms from accounting to construction tech to culinary arts.

2. Would you support a board decision you did not vote in favor of? Why or why not?

Last year my board approved a Resolution that was focused on ending our School Resource Officer program (Law enforcement on campus) with a 3-2 vote, myself and Berdetta Hodge dissenting.

I took the following weeks to work out the issues with my board members and addressed their concerns and presented the item for adoption again. In December with their concerns addressed. That meeting, we approved our SRO program with a 5-0 vote and revised the Resolution to make the goal innovating school Safety.

While I did not agree with their votes and the outcome, I do have to respect our democratic system and the vote.

I chose to work within my framework to address concerns and used my knowledge of policies to bring the issue back for a vote with full support. We can do a lot together when we take a moment to reflect.

3. What programming and policies do you hope to bring to the district?

When it comes to policies, I'm not here to be an activist board member. I believe my record and actions speak to that. Policies are developed either through legislation that directs us to implement or it comes from the committees in our District. Committees are made up of staff members within our district, students, teachers, family members and specialists. They are tasked with researching, developing and ultimately recommending policy changes to the Board. Any community member can request to be on a committee. Board members should not bring their politics to the Board.

Currently, I am working on bringing more career and technical education programs to our district. Where we can't find funding, I then seek partnerships within our community. We have a very supportive community and I believe that if we are to innovate our programs we must be less reliant on State funding and more reliant on developing relationships with our local governments, local chambers, and nonprofits.