

CUSD Governing Board Candidate Questionnaire

Joshua Askey



How long have you lived in Chandler USD boundaries?

22 years

Education Summary

B.S. in Accounting & Business Administration

Current Employment

Coaction Group

Civic Engagement

For 10 years I was the contact for school nurses for the Helping Hands Caring Heart Project that organized newly donated clothes for those students in need. I currently serve as the Chairman of the Museum Advisory Board, having been a member since 2013. I have served as a Judge in the Chuck Wagon Cook-off, and have been a Soccer Coach for both Recreational and Club for several years.

Questions

1. What unique qualifications do you bring to the Chandler USD Governing Board?

I have a B.S. degree in both Accounting and Business Administration and have worked in the accounting profession since 1996. Most of my career has been in the construction industry and the largest project I was responsible for was a \$176 million project. I am currently a Controller and deal with budgets on a daily basis. My financial background will help me decipher the current budget and see where the money comes from, where it is going, and what inefficiencies can be eliminated.

2. In your opinion, what is the greatest challenge facing our school district, and how would you address it as a board member?

The greatest challenge is how to address facility disrepair in a timely manner so that teachers and students have a safe, enjoyable and inviting place to work and learn.

3. What role do you feel CEA should have in the district? How would you engage with CEA in your role as a board member?

I would segregate political policy from the classroom and identify educational policy that will attract more parents and businesses to choose CUSD. CEA members will have the same access to me as any member of the CUSD family.

4. Describe your decision-making process and how you would utilize it as a board member regarding district policies such as contracts, working conditions, evaluations, etc.

I tend to gather as much of the facts as possible by interviewing relevant parties and researching authorizing documents, and then understanding how those facts interact with each other. This allows me to reach a conclusion that is based on the constraints given.

5. As a board member, how would you help the district attract and retain talented education professionals?

I would begin by implementing a work/life balance philosophy, one that is financially enticing for all employees. I would also take an active interest in how well the facilities are being maintained so as to ensure a safe and inviting work environment.

6. As a board member, how would you prioritize funding in the face of severe budget cuts (e.g., loss of federal funds, legislative cuts, reduction in student population/per-pupil funding, etc.)?

In the event of a funding crisis, expenses will need to be cut, and inefficiencies will need to be eliminated.

7. What is your position regarding due process rights for school employees? Explain.

As Arizona is a right-to-work state, I am for due process for the employees as long as the rights of the employer are not infringed upon.

8. What is your position on Proposition 305, and will you sign the invest in ed pledge as a candidate and/or a voter? Explain.

I will be voting no on Prop 305. We elect our representatives to address the laws that effect our state - the voucher system in our state needs to be reworked, and I believe the proper place for that is in the Legislature, not at the ballot box. I will not sign the Invest in Ed pledge as it is not the place of the Governing Board to vote on Legislative funding issues. The role of the Governing Board is to primarily oversee the budget of the District – as CUSD is ranked near the top of teacher pay in the state, I will work to ensure that we continue to provide top pay for all teachers and employees, and to fully fund the classrooms in every school and every classroom within the District. Ultimately, our students must remain the Board's top financial priority of the District, while respecting and valuing our citizen taxpayers.