

CUSD Governing Board Candidate Questionnaire

Lindsay Love

How long have you lived in Chandler USD boundaries?

19 years

Education Summary

Arizona State University (2008) BA English Literature/Sociology Minor

University of Southern California (2013) Masters of Social Work



Current Employment

Clinical Manager for a Community Behavioral Health Agency in Phoenix

Private Practice Therapist at Wholistic Counseling and Wellness Alternatives

Civic Engagement

Volunteer for Domestic Violence Agency

Emerge Arizona (April 2018 Cohort)

Student Teacher with the eXzone Project through ASU

Compiled food boxes for St. Mary's

Facilitated presentations on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention to incoming Freshman at the ASU TRIOS Program

Facilitated presentation of Toxic Masculinity and its Impact on Black Women and Girls for the Black Communities Conference

Community Social Worker

Questions

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

I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has worked with children and their families (ages 5-17) and have supported teachers in understanding the unique needs of their students to promote successful outcome in the classroom. I also understand how classrooms, families and communities work from my nonprofit background. I have worked in leadership roles and have managed teams and worked collaboratively with different team members.

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

I think the board has an uphill battle ahead of them in tackling their diversity and inclusion issues and helping our students of color feel safe on campus. The board is on the right track with bringing in Dr. Sallu. However, I would like to see the board review problematic and culturally insensitive curriculum and policies (Native American Jewelry Making exercises, VISA Rewards Program, use of racial slurs in the classroom, etc.). I would also like to see more qualified and diverse teachers and the adoption of a trauma informed approach that helps teachers evaluate student responses and behaviors in a different way so that they less apt to punish and utilize different interventions. I would like the board to provide supportive environments to support our teachers in meeting the students where they are in their social/emotional process. Along those lines, providing trainings on implicit bias for teachers so that they feel comfortable navigating challenging situations. This is imperative in keeping students in classroom to learn as well as keeping students enrolled which will have positive impacts on the budget. It will also help us to create a more welcoming environment where companies will want to move in to our communities with their employees and their families.

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 think CEA does its best to make sure the teachers voice is always at the forefront as the only recognized union that supports teachers. I would turn to the CEA for that voice so that I can advocate for their concerns on the board as well as leaving myself open for membership and to develop relationships with leadership so that the teacher's voice remains present on the board. I would be open to sitting down with the leadership to understand the consensus and how the board can best protect that.

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 use more of a collaborative decision making process where I would turn to community members, which includes teachers, parents and other stakeholders within the community, to inform practice and policies. I would always want to include those voices to determine the impact a policy, contract, working conditions and evaluations may have on teachers, parents and students. I would also turn to the school board association to keep me aligned on all ethical implications regarding district policies and work with the board to make sure those suggestions from the association apply to our district. I would also work collaboratively with CEA, as they are a vital part as representatives of teachers, to make sure the district runs smoothly and operates within the best interest of the teachers and students.

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

CUSD needs to be a place where not only teachers want to work, but they need to be able to see the potential for growth and continued success. I would want to ensure that teachers are getting a salary that enables them to take care of themselves and their families. I would also want to make sure that teachers have the resources to complete every function of their jobs by increasing the amount of money we spend on instruction. I recognize that teachers are passionate and work hard to be competent and qualified professionals. I would work to maintain that standard within the district to make sure that we continue that standard among Chandler teachers. I also recognize that teachers are under extreme pressure, having to compete with each other at times when they themselves are being judged on their ability to meet district standards/test score outcomes. I would like to see teachers working more collaboratively so that they feel supported by each other and can better support Chandler students. Success needs to be broadened because teachers work with students with differing needs and have to meet each student where they are in the learning process. I believe that when people feel supported in their positions and feel they can grow, they will stay with the district.

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.)?

Students must always be first, so I would prioritize instruction and teacher pay because we would have to retain top professionals in order to serve the students and maintain top quality education.

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

As a strongly pro-union candidate, I support due process. As a board member, I would collaborate with other board members and would not make up my mind until an executive session where I could hear all the facts. Then my decision making process would center around the best outcome for the student. We all make mistakes and the ability for the teacher to be open to growth and learning opportunities if needed is important to preserve quality teachers. I would like to hear the teacher out and make sure teachers get a fair chance. Termination is the absolute last resort, unless a student's safety is compromised.

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 am voting no on prop 305 because I stand with the many educators and families who are invested in more money going into public education instead of money being taken out of public schools. I have already signed the invest in ed pledge as a candidate.