

# Chandler USD Governing Board Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for participating in the Chandler Education Association candidate interview process. This is one way the employees of the Chandler Unified School District can get to know you.

## Directions

1. Please complete the candidate information and respond to the questions below. Please limit your responses to 250 words or less.
2. Return the completed candidate information and questionnaire to Maria Hase at [REDACTED] [vppoliticalaction@chandlerrea.org](mailto:vppoliticalaction@chandlerrea.org) by **Monday, July 27**.
3. If you have any questions regarding the candidate interview process, contact Katie Nash at [REDACTED] [president@chandlerrea.org](mailto:president@chandlerrea.org).

## Candidate Information

Candidate Name Barb Mozden

Home Address [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED]  Cell  Home

Email [REDACTED]

How long have you lived in CUSD boundaries? 32 years

Education Summary Bachelors of Science in Nursing, Physics

Current Employment N/A

Civic Engagement Read on Chandler, Current Governing Board Member, Yes for Chandler Students volunteer/treasurer, former parent volunteer at Shumway, Sanborn, Willis, Anderson Jr, and CHS, former Booster club president Swim and Dive, Ran fundraising campaign for CEF for 4 years.

Additional Information Former President and Board Member--Desert Sun Child Development Center, a parent participation, non profit preschool

# Questions

1. What unique qualifications do you bring to the Chandler Unified School District (CUSD) Governing Board?

I bring experience in school district governance and leadership as a unique qualification and am the only candidate with CUSD Governing Board experience. My contributions have been instrumental in the development and adoption of the district strategic plan, Journey 2025. Critical thinking, data analysis, creative thinking, collaboration, compassion and listening to others are skills that I also bring to the Governing board.

2. In your opinion, what is the greatest challenge facing CUSD, and how would you address it?

The greatest challenge facing CUSD today is the disruption of traditional educational system due to the COVID epidemic. I believe that we need to continue to provide our families choices when it comes to their child's education. Every child and family has different circumstances and as a result, different needs. The school board needs to listen to the varied needs of the staff and be sensitive to all those different needs also, and be willing to adjust policies that meet this huge variety of needs. We know that in-person education is best for children, but balancing the varied needs of students, families, staff, and primarily safety for all is a great challenge. I believe the best way to address this is to listen to parents and staff, analyze data, read studies on transmission, follow the required guidelines, stay flexible and keep as many options available for our students and families as we safely can. We all have to remember that this is temporary, and we are all in this together.

3. What role do you feel CEA should have in CUSD? How would you engage with CEA?

CEA Leadership should have a collaborative relationship with CUSD administration and board members. Personal contacts, regular meetings and dialog with administrators is vital to a great relationship with CEA and the teachers it represents. I would like to have more personal contacts and dialog with my current liaison with CEA to discuss items of mutual interest and collaborate.

4. Describe your decision-making process and how you would utilize it working with CUSD, with CEA, and with surrounding City/Town Councils.

I utilize data, stakeholder inputs, critical thinking skills, collaboration, analysis, logic, and other factors depending on the decision. Budgetary decisions may utilize different decision making skills than program decisions or construction decisions. With any decision, the impact on all students, teachers, administrators, parents, community, marginalized populations, City/Town Councils, CEA, support professionals and more needs to be considered and analysed to prevent unintended consequences.

5. How would you help the district attract and retain talented education professionals?

I would help the district by continuing stable, thoughtful, reliable and experienced leadership as I believe it plays a large role in attracting and retaining the best and brightest professionals. Keeping our salaries competitive in the Arizona market along with a promoting culture of mutual respect amongst teachers, staff, students and families helps provide a positive work environment. The Journey 2025 plan also provides additional steps for attracting and retaining outstanding staff.

6. 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.)?

During the great recession while I was on the Board, we experienced severe budget cuts. Collaboratively, we focused on identifying areas in which expenses could be delayed or possibly eliminated as part of the budget cuts. All principals were told to only purchase vitally needed items. The top priority was saving the jobs of all of our staff--no layoffs, no reductions in workforce and no furloughs. Overtime was eliminated or strictly controlled, new positions due to growth in student population were re-evaluated on a case by case basis, and throughout the entire district all staff conserved our resources. As a result, we were one of the few districts that did not cut base salaries of staff nor reduce our workforce through layoffs or furloughs. I will continue to prioritize our human capital and resources in the face of possible future budget cuts.

7. Over 400,000 voters signed petitions to place the Invest in Education Act on the November ballot. If passed, this proposition would provide almost \$1 billion in additional funding to Arizona public schools using an income tax surcharge on incomes over \$250,000 (\$500,000 for married couples). Do you support the Invest in Education Act? Why or why not?

The Invest in Education Act does not provide the legislative funding overhaul needed to fund Arizona schools adequately, equitably, or sustainably, nor does it provide for enhanced funding for special education students. This Act will provide additional funding to Arizona schools which is badly needed, and I support that effort, but I also believe that if it passes, it may have the unintended consequence of delaying the Arizona State Legislature from doing their job of sustainably and adequately funding schools.

8. Do you support CUSD's equity and inclusion program? Why or why not?

Schools across the county are dealing with achievement gap issues, including CUSD. Equity has been a core value of CUSD for more than 10 years. I wanted to be a part of the Governing Board specifically because I wanted to ensure that ALL students could get the kind of quality education that my children received in CUSD, and give back to this great community. Each child learns differently, and these differences are impacted by a variety of factors--environment, early learning, personality of the child, special needs, gender, race, and many more. Teachers need to be properly equipped to provide a learning environment that does not exclude any child from reaching his or her maximum potential. Our district also needs to make sure that children are seeing successful people that look like them. Diversity in our staff is important and a Journey 2025 goal, along with clear, concise equity and

inclusion metrics that were developed to measure our progress towards closing the achievement gap and allowing each child to reach that potential.

9. CUSD has removed the former sex education curriculum from its elementary schools. Do you agree or disagree with CUSD's decision to do so? In your opinion, what should sex education look like in elementary, middle, and high school? Why?

The district had challenges with obtaining qualified staff to continue the curriculum at the elementary level, and it was moved to online last year. I support putting this curriculum back into the elementary schools on a parental opt in basis, as required by Arizona Revised Statutes. I also support the utilization of specially trained CUSD teachers visiting the schools to provide the district curriculum in a uniform, consistent manner that respects the rights of students and parents.

10. CUSD has a long history of bargaining with educators in a process called Super Q. The members of the bargaining team include: CEA members, Administration, Education Support Personnel, and Governing Board Members. Do you think the Super Q process should only address issues related to funding, or do you think it should address all issues (professional development, technology, etc.) that impact educator working conditions? Do you support a professional agreement? Do you support a governing board policy regarding bargaining? Explain.

Our current Super Q team meets for 4 to 5 times for approximately 20 hours total to address compensation each spring. I believe Super Q should continue address compensation only for a number of reasons. The nature of Super Q is a confidential session and should rightly remain that way.

Other topics, such as technology and professional development, do not need to remain as a confidential session. I believe those should meet as separate committees, similar to how our benefits committee or budget committee meets. Separate topic based committees can include a greater number of teachers and/or support staff and provide additional opportunities for more individuals to be included in the decisions that impact them the most--something our staff members desire. Separate committees will also provide additional diversity in views, ideas and thoughts due to the involvement of a broader group of individuals on the committee, can focus on a single issue, and come up with a better outcomes.

11. We are currently in the midst of the COVID pandemic. Do you believe CUSD schools can safely open on August 17th? What do you believe is necessary for schools to open and resume in-person instruction?