

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 by **Monday, July 27**.
3. If you have any questions regarding the candidate interview process, contact Katie Nash at [REDACTED] president@chandlerrea.org.

Candidate Information

Candidate Name Jason Olive

Home Address [REDACTED]

Phone [REDACTED] ☒ Cell ☐ Home

Email None

How long have you lived in CUSD boundaries? 19 years

Education Summary MA in Spanish

Current Employment Architect at ADM Group inc.

Civic Engagement Previously served on the Gilbert Water Resources Municipal Property Corporation

Additional Information

Questions

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

I am a Chandler parent. I was a teacher for two years. I have worked on school projects for the last 25 years.

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

I think that the biggest challenge will be dealing with the financial and funding turmoil when the covid crisis has passed.

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

I do not yet know enough about CEA to have an informed opinion about it.

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

All three of these entities should work together to push for improved support for public schools.

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

Treating them well, training them well, and paying them well.

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.)?

There isn't much room in the budget to cut after the few small easy things. We would all have to figure out what the priorities are. The district is successful because of small class sizes. I know what it is like to take too many kids in one class. The only place left would be sports and electives.

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?

Yes, I helped to collect signatures for it. I think that it is the right thing to do. I don't like that it only taxes the very wealthy. Those that make upper middle levels of income should have been included. I know that they were not included so that the measure could get passed.

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

I have read through it and I think that it is a good program. The sad part is that we have to have an entire program to tell us to do the right things.

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?

There should be a curriculum. Kids are curious and we give them computers. If we leave them to their own devices they are going to find lots of information that is not correct. The new curriculum for older students should be focused on countering misinformation on STDs, abuse, etc. I don't have any objection if people want to also teach abstinence but I think that it is a waste of time and money. The younger grades should be more focused on definitions of personal space, what constitutes inappropriate contact, reporting abuse, etc.

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.

I know a little about the super Q process but I don't know enough about it yet to have an informed opinion.

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?

I am sending my children back to school on the 17th. They are in high school. My wife and I are both nervous about it but we know that is the best choice for the kids. They have not been doing well with the isolation. I strongly believe that for those willing to go back mask wearing should be enforced, there should be daily temperature checks, there should be as much distancing as possible, sick days/make up work shouldn't be counted against the students as harshly as they have in the past, and handwashing should be somehow enforced.

Hopefully by the time I am on the board the pandemic will be going away or we would have found better ways of living with it.